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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

RANDALL LEE GIBSON

MARCH 1, 1893–APRIL 21, 1894.

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United States

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

RANDALL LEE GIBSON,

(A SENATOR FROM LOUISIANA,)

DELIVERED IN THE

SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

MARCH 1, 1893, AND APRIL 21, 1894.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONGRESS.

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Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That there be printed of the eulogies delivered in Congress upon the Hon. RANDALL LEE GIBSON, late a Senator from the State of Louisiana, 8,000 copies, of which 2,000 copies shall be delivered to the Senators and Representatives of that State; and of the remaining number 2,000 copies shall be for the use of the Senate and 4,000 copies for the use of the House; and of the quota of the Senators and Representatives from the State of Louisiana the Public Printer shall set aside 50 copies, which he shall have bound in full morocco with gilt edges, the same to be delivered, when completed, to the family of the deceased; and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby directed to have engraved and printed, at as early a date as practicable, the portrait of the deceased to accompany said eulogies.

Passed the Senate May 8, 1894.

Passed the House of Representatives May 9, 1894.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DEATH OF SENATOR GIBSON.

IN THE SENATE.

MONDAY, *December 19, 1892.*

Rev. J. G. BUTLER, D. D., the Chaplain of the Senate, offered the following prayer:

Lord God Almighty, Thou art the dwelling place of Thy people in all generations. From everlasting to everlasting Thou art God.

Look in mercy upon us as we again stand in the shadow of death thrown over this Chamber. We bless Thee for the pure, gentle, faithful life of Thy servant, our departed brother. Sustain and comfort all who are bereft, and so fill with Thy Spirit our hearts that day by day we may walk obediently, and humbly, and prayerfully, and trustingly before God, charitably, and kindly, and faithfully toward each other, meeting every day's responsibility in Thy fear and in view of the account we shall render to Thee.

Hallow to us, we pray Thee, the rest and labor of the holy Sabbath day. Purify our hearts by the indwelling of Thy Spirit. Grant victory in every time of temptation, and help, that the truth of God may reign in us and rule over us, guiding our steps in the paths of righteousness and of peace.

Regard in great mercy Thy servant toward whose sick bed so many eyes and hearts are now turned. We thank Thee for his long and useful life. If it please Thee, spare his life, re-

store and strengthen, above all sustain by the power of a living faith in this hour of trial, and give peace to him and to his who watch so tenderly in this time of darkness.

Guide us by Thy counsel. Teach us heavenly wisdom. O God, pity us amid life's infirmities and temptations and help us to meet daily responsibilities in the fear and strength of God faithfully, as we shall wish to have done when we come to the end of our earthly pilgrimage.

We ask these mercies, with forgiveness, and grace, and help, in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Journal of the proceedings of Thursday last was read and approved.

DEATH OF SENATOR GIBSON, OF LOUISIANA.

Mr. GORMAN. Mr. President, at the request of the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. WHITE], who is engaged in rendering affectionate services to his late colleague, it is made my painful duty to announce to the Senate the death of Hon. RANDALL LEE GIBSON, the senior Senator from the State of Louisiana. After a lingering illness he expired peacefully at Hot Springs, in Arkansas, on Thursday last.

I can not, sir, make this sad announcement without expressing something of the sorrow which this intelligence has brought to the Senate. Senator GIBSON held a very high place in the esteem and affections of his associates on this floor.

His great personal worth and his eminent public services had made their impressions on our hearts and judgments. We feel and deplore the unspeakable loss which the Senate, his State, and the country bear in his death.

His inestimable value as a Senator and as a man is well known to all of us. His death is a profound affliction to us and a serious bereavement to his people and the country.

He was a great and good man. His mental faculties and his moral qualities were of a very high order. It is not too much to say that his love for Louisiana had no limit, and that his large heart embraced in its patriotism the whole Union.

He has left his countrymen the example of a useful, honorable, and patriotic life, and he has left to us, his survivors here, the memory of a friendship unalloyed by regret.

Mr. President, in behalf of the absent Senator from Louisiana [Mr. WHITE], I submit the resolutions which I send to the desk, and ask their adoption.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The resolutions will be read.

The Chief Clerk read the resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of the Hon. RANDALL LEE GIBSON, late a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

Resolved, That a committee of five Senators be appointed by the Presiding Officer, to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives, to attend the funeral at Lexington, Ky., and that the necessary expenses attending the execution of this order be paid out of the contingent fund of the Senate.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

The resolutions were agreed to unanimously.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Chair appoints as the committee to represent the Senate, provided for in the second resolution, the Senator from Louisiana, Mr. WHITE; the Senator from South Carolina, Mr. BUTLER; the Senator from Georgia, Mr. GORDON; the Senator from South Dakota, Mr. PETTIGREW, and the Senator from Idaho, Mr. SHOUP.

Mr. GORMAN. Mr. President, I move, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to, and (at 12 o'clock and 15 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Tuesday, December 20, 1892, at 12 o'clock m.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, *December 17, 1892.*

Mr. MEYER. Mr. Speaker, since our last meeting the Congress of the United States and our whole country have suffered an irreparable loss, and it becomes my painful duty to announce to this House the death of Hon. RANDALL LEE GIBSON, a Senator from Louisiana, which occurred on Thursday last at Hot Springs, Ark., after a prolonged illness. His remains will be interred at Lexington, Ky., where he was born, and where his earlier years were passed in the midst of a numerous and affectionate kindred.

For many years a conspicuous member of this body, there are many of his former colleagues who can appreciate the great grief this loss brings to his family and the personal bereavement it causes to his friends.

As a soldier, a scholar, and a statesman—in the field, on the rostrum, and in the council chamber—the best energies of his life were consecrated to his State and to his country. He loved her devotedly, strove to serve her unselfishly, and, beyond interests of family, or friends, or party, made her welfare the chief object of his desires.

Occupying, as I do, the seat once so illustriously held by him, I share in the pride of my State for having had as a Representative in this honorable House and in the Senate of the United States one so high-toned, so spotless as RANDALL LEE GIBSON, and the luster which his civic virtues reflected on his people and the honor which his public career conferred upon his whole country but exceeded his earlier services as a soldier, battling for what he believed to be the right.

At the proper time, Mr. Speaker, I shall ask this House to set apart a day, as is its custom, to be devoted to the portrayal

of his lofty character, and when this Chamber will resound with eloquent tributes to the admirable traits and eminent public services of the deceased it will make those who listen the better, it will afford them a higher conception of American manhood and American statesmanship, and it will cause them to rejoice that attributes so noble, qualities so pure and patriotic, should have been so continuously recognized by his fellow-citizens. I send to the Clerk's desk resolutions for which I ask immediate adoption.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That this House has learned with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. RANDALL LEE GIBSON, a Senator of the United States from the State of Louisiana.

Resolved, That the Speaker of the House appoint a committee of eight members, to act in conjunction with such committee as may be appointed by the Senate, to attend the burial.

Resolved, That, as a further tribute and mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, this House do now adjourn.

The question being taken, the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

The SPEAKER announced the appointment of Mr. BLANCHARD, Mr. ROBERTSON of Louisiana, Mr. PRICE, Mr. BRECKINRIDGE of Kentucky, Mr. ELLIOTT, Mr. CARUTH, Mr. HENDERSON of Illinois, and Mr. DALZELL as the committee on the part of the House under the resolutions just adopted; and, in accordance with the concluding resolution, the House (at 4 o'clock and 15 minutes) adjourned.

EULOGIES IN THE SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, *March 1, 1893.*

Mr. WHITE. Mr. President, I submit the resolutions which I send to the desk, and ask that they be read.

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore.* The resolutions will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. RANDALL LEE GIBSON, late a Senator from the State of Louisiana, and that it extends to his afflicted family its sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

Resolved further, That as an additional mark of respect to the memory of Senator GIBSON the legislative business of the Senate be now suspended in order that his associates in this body may pay a tribute to his memory.

Resolved, That the Secretary transmit to the family of the deceased certified copies of these resolutions, with statement of the action of the Senate thereon.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

Resolved, That as a further testimonial to the memory of the deceased the Senate do now adjourn.

Address of Mr. White, of Louisiana.

Mr. President: In the noble and beautiful eulogy delivered by the Senator from Maine [Mr. Frye] the other day on the late Senator Kenna, he said that he thought the custom which has grown up in this body, when the hand of death strikes down one engaged among us in the performance of public service, of putting aside a day in order to make up the record of the services of the deceased and to make a statement of the estimate formed of him by his colleagues, had it in something cold and something perfunctory. It would be better, he thought, that the warm expressions from the heart should respond at once to the void which death created.

The view, sir, struck me as having in it its modicum of truth, but only, I think, a half truth. Wherever a custom has taken being in a body like this and has endured for a long time, it must have its foundation in some deep-seated reason, although such reason may not upon the surface of things be apparent. I presume, sir, that the custom by which an interval of time is allowed to elapse before ceremonies like these we commemorate to-day are had results from the fact that it was the desire and object to prevent the public record which was to be made from being formed under the dread shadow of immediate death, and therefore to enable a wiser, juster, and more impartial estimate to be put upon the record than otherwise would obtain.

Sir, if this be the origin of the rule, the task imposed upon me to-day is indeed a difficult one. As the colleague and loving friend of the deceased Senator, how, sir, can I lift my voice up to say anything that contains in it in any way a judgment or an opinion, free from bias and uncontrolled by those tender

and enduring associations which created and maintained that lasting link of personal friendship between us?

Looking back to my boyhood, I can recall him to my mind. Looking back to my early manhood, I find a friendship formed, growing with my growth, spreading with my years, and strengthening as every day went by in the depth of the attachment formed for him and the estimate I entertained for the high and noble attributes of his nature. Despite these facts, sir, which may obscure my judgment and crowd the gateways of my mind so full of tender recollections, I shall endeavor to briefly and impartially state his career, the moral which it illustrates, and the example which it sets.

Sir, Senator GIBSON suffered no adverse fortune in his early youth. His paternal grandfather came of Revolutionary stock. Moving from Virginia to South Carolina and then from South Carolina to Mississippi, he became there allied by marriage and association with many of the noblest names in that great Commonwealth. His father married early in life in Lexington, Ky., a Miss Louisiana Hart. She came from one of the most distinguished families of the many noble ones which have illustrated and adorned the history of that marvelous State—the Shelbys, the Marshalls, the Prestons, the Breckinridges, and others. The name of Louisiana was given her from the fact that a great kinsman at just about the time of her birth had drafted and introduced in this body the resolution which consummated the purpose of Thomas Jefferson in acquiring the vast territory of Louisiana. It seems, sir, as an inspiration of the providence of God that she upon whom was thus bestowed the name of the new territory was to become the mother of a son who was to shed luster upon the State of Louisiana, was to lead her gallant and heroic sons in battle, was to render her and her people services in these Halls priceless beyond measure, and in the performance of other public duties elsewhere.

No defect of early education was his. He grew up in Lexington surrounded by the refined and cultivated atmosphere which there prevailed—an atmosphere the intensity of which may be understood when it is considered that upon it was shed the luster of the life and fame of the great commoner, Henry Clay. Early in his youth that masterful power which in after life was to dominate and direct men demonstrated itself among his youthful associates. He became the captain of a company called the Ashland Guards, which was intended to serve as the escort of Mr. Clay.

Shortly after his marriage the father of Senator GIBSON acquired property in Louisiana and established a sugar estate in Terre Bonne Parish. This became his home, and thus was begun the association of Senator GIBSON with the people of that State whom he so much loved and served so well.

Taking his primary education in Terre Bonne and in Lexington, his collegiate education was obtained at Yale College. That great institution of learning which has formed so many splendid men left an impress upon his mind and his character which followed him to the end of his career.

At college the same qualities which in later manhood shone out in his character with a brightness the full extent of which was known to few men until they came in intimate contact with him made him, as a member of the graduating class—containing some of the brightest names in the record of our common country, Andrew White and others—the class orator of that class.

After his graduation he traveled a few years in Europe. Returning to Louisiana, he studied law and took the diploma of the Law University of Louisiana. But, sir, the temper of his mind was not cast in that mold which likes the dry and arduous details necessarily attending the neophyte in the legal profession. That era in the South was the period of flores-

cence, of the semipatriarchal life which charmed and fascinated everybody. Born of a race of country gentlemen, passing his boyhood either upon the rolling hills and lovely dales of the fair State of Kentucky, or in the green fields and waving forests of Louisiana, it was natural that the mind of young GIBSON should have turned to country pursuits. Under these influences he established himself on a sugar plantation with the idea of becoming a planter. I take it, sir, that the early impression made upon his mind by his youthful surroundings had not been effaced when he made this choice of a career. The consideration of public things, the discussion of public questions, was one of the necessary incidents in the semipatriarchal life of the planter of the Southern country. Doubtless the whisperings of public duty and the beckoning ambition of public service rose in the mind and heart of young GIBSON when he determined to give himself up to a country life. How could it have been otherwise? The concentrated political atmosphere which surrounded Lexington, Ky., when the overshadowing luster of the genius of Clay was with it must necessarily have remained with him. It was stamped upon his mind at a time when his impressions were plastic. Early in his career he began to give evidence of the truth of this statement by taking an interest in public affairs and by directing his steps along the path which led to the performance of public duty.

A great and noble career doubtless, sir, would have at once awaited him in the State of his adoption had not the cloud of war arisen to mar and dispel it. The storm which took its origin at the very formation of our Government was gathering over the land, and no human wisdom and no human foresight could prevent the awful tempest of blood, ruin, and misery which was to follow. When the first mutterings of that storm began to be heard, young GIBSON, who had imbibed a national

view of our institutions and whose mind was formed under the pressure of the great doctrines taught by the Whig party, of which Mr. Clay was the masterful exponent, at once took a stand against the fatal act of isolated secession.

But, sir, no force of human strength, or human character, or human intellect could stem the resistless current which was setting then as the result of forces long since created. The act was consummated. The reverberation of the first gun, echoing from Sumter, called a million men to arms. Reason was lost, and passion alone had sway. Feeling that, under his conception of duty, he owed his allegiance to the people of the State of his adoption, he rai ed a company in the parish in which he lived and tendered it for defense.

He soon passed from the captaincy of a company to the colonelcy of a regiment. Untrained in military affairs, cast in a mold of mind as foreign to the performance of military duty as any man I ever knew, the great qualities which God had given him shown out in his military career as they shown everywhere else, and he passed from the command of a regiment to the command of a brigade.

His regiment was assigned to duty in the Western army and met the first shock of battle at Shiloh. There, sir, his regiment, the Thirteenth Louisiana, shed a beautiful luster of courage and heroism upon the name of my State, certainly never surpassed. But I need not go into detail. In all the dread conflicts in which the Western army was engaged, in the campaign in Kentucky which led to the bloody fight at Perryville, in the campaign which caused the carnage of Murfreesboro, in that death-to-death battle which poured out such rivers of blood upon the field of Chickamauga, in the memorable retreat of Johnston, in the struggle around Atlanta—everywhere, at the head of his regiment or brigade, the civilian soldier stood in the forefront of battle and did his duty with a

courage, a fidelity, a zeal, and a heroism which no language of mine can fittingly portray.

I thought, sir, as I looked the other day over the incidents of his military career, it would be well, not only for his own sake, but for the sake of those noble and valiant men whom he led, that I should put upon the record some of the estimates entertained of him and them by the chieftains under whom he served.

General Dan. Adams, in his official report of Perryville, recommended GIBSON for promotion "for skill and gallantry on the field of battle."

General Breckinridge, in his report of Murfreesboro, said: "General GIBSON discharged his duty with marked courage and skill."

General Clayton, in his report of the struggle at Atlanta, says:

> Brigadier-General GIBSON, seizing the colors of one of his regiments, dashed to the front and to the very works of the enemy. This gallant brigade lost one-half of its members. My own eyes bore witness to its splendid conduct from the beginning to the close. It captured the guns of the enemy and captured their main works until overwhelming and increasing numbers forced their abandonment. It was handled with skill and fought with the heroism of desperation.

General Stephen D. Lee says of GIBSON'S brigade:

> I saw them around Atlanta and in Hood's Nashville campaign. I designated GIBSON'S brigade to cross the Tennessee River in open boats in the presence of the enemy, near Florence, Ala., and a more gallant crossing of any river was not made during the war. At Nashville, when Hood was defeated by Thomas, GIBSON'S brigade was conspicuously posted on the left of the pike near Overton Hill, and I witnessed their driving back, with the rest of Clayton's division, two formidable assaults of the enemy.
>
> I recollect, near dark, riding up to the brigade, near a battery, and trying to seize a stand of colors and lead the brigade against the enemy. The color-bearer refused to give up his colors and was sustained by his regiment. I found it was the color-bearer of the Thirteenth Louisiana.

It was GIBSON'S Louisiana brigade. GIBSON soon appeared at my side, and in admiration of such conduct I exclaimed: "GIBSON, these are the best men I ever saw; you take them and check the enemy." GIBSON did take them and did check the enemy.

Hood, in his Advance and Retreat, speaking of the retreat from the fatal field of Franklin, says:

General GIBSON, who evinced conspicuous gallantry and ability in the handling of his troops, succeeded, in concert with Clayton, in checking and staying the most dangerous shock, which always follows immediately after a rout, GIBSON'S brigade and McKinzie's battery of Fenner's battalion acting as rear guard of the rear guard.

General Breckinridge, speaking of General GIBSON at Chickamauga, said that he led his forces with a heroism and intelligence which could not be too highly praised.

The ability which GIBSON displayed as a military commander led to his assignment to a separate command as a division commander in the defense of Spanish Fort at Mobile Harbor, one of the last and most fateful struggles of the civil war. The estimate made of him then in this line of duty is but a repetition of the opinions which I have read of the great captains under whom he previously served.

General Andrews, who fought upon the other side, in his history of the campaign of Mobile, says:

General GIBSON was competent and active and inspired his troops with enthusiasm.

General Taylor asserts in his Construction and Reconstruction that "the defense of Spanish Fort by General GIBSON was one of the best achievements of the war."

Such, sir, was his military career. Ah, who that recalls him as he lived in these Halls, his urbanity, his mildness, his gentleness and consideration for others, would have thought of him as a leader in war. I say, sir, it is a record of which any American may be proud. I say, sir, it is a record which ought

to make every American doubly proud, not only from the fact that it exists, but from the further fact that with only those few years lying between us and that awful struggle I am able to stand in my place in the Senate of the United States and point to this record made in a civil strife as the common heritage of a united country, as an indication of the valor and fidelity to duty of a good and noble American.

Sir, we may have our judgments as to the wisdom of men in that great struggle. Opinions may, as they doubtless do, differ as to the cause of its origin and as to the motives which impelled those who brought it about. I am fain, however, to believe, as the assuaging hand of time comes to blot out these conditions, and as the necessities weld us into the great and harmonious people which we now are, and which I hope, and we all hope, shall continue to be in a greater and greater degree as the years go on, I am sure the heart of the American people is capable of recognizing the courage and heroism of the American citizen displayed in the discharge of a sacred duty as he understood his duty at the time.

Returning to his home when the war was ended, the dream of a pastoral life which had inspired the heart of the young man was necessarily blighted and gone. Misery and desolation and ruin of war had laid waste the fair fields upon which he had expected to spend a part of the energies of his life. In this condition he did as so many others did. He turned his attention to that profession which he had studied rather as an ornament than as a practical pursuit in life. He took up the practice of law in the city of New Orleans.

I recollect it well, sir, for about that time, or a year or so thereafter, I became myself a law student. The bar to which he came was crowded with men of bright and dominant intellects and of large experience. The struggle for professional advancement was great. He soon began to make himself felt,

and business came to him. The singular fascination which he exercised over men and his great power to deal with them was sensibly observed by all who came in contact with him. While these attributes did not make him a technical lawyer in the narrow sense of that term, his breadth of view and scope of judgment soon made his opponents at the bar conscious of the fact that when GIBSON was in a case the other side had to be careful in its preparation.

Degree by degree the sphere of his professional usefulness extended. The qualities which had made him a leader in war would doubtless also ultimately have made him a leader in the struggle for dominancy in the civil profession had not a more alluring and enchanting field of public service drawn him away from legal to political pursuits. He was elected to the Forty-third Congress, but was denied a seat. He was elected again to the Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth, and Forty-seventh, and while serving in the Forty sixth, and having yet a term to serve in the Forty-seventh, he was elected to the Senate in 1888, and was reelected for another term.

I shall not, sir, in the brief remarks which I now propose to make, attempt to analyze his career, either in the other House of Congress or in this body. I see sitting around me those who have grown gray in the public service, who served with him years ago in the other House, and who were with him here during all his Senatorial career. They can, infinitely better than I, estimate his power and the steady and resolute advance which he made in the acquisition of influence so as to enable him to participate in the direction and shaping of legislation. All I shall briefly do, sir, is to attempt to point out what I conceive to be the salient features in his public service and in the character of his work as illustrative of his career here.

The first thought that strikes me is the broad and compre-

hensive, the national view which his opinions soon assumed. Having come from the field of war, and having witnessed the awful convulsions to which the country had been subjected, his mind felt the necessity in the termination of the great issues which had evoked the war for a broader and safer national life. His mind was responsive to the whole country in every great national question which presented itself. While he set his heart upon serving his people locally, he sought at the same time to serve, with all his might and main, the nation as a whole of which the people whom he represented were but a component part.

Let me illustrate it, sir, by the events of 1877. I recollect when that crisis came, which threatened so much of harm to this nation, the bold and manly part he took in the events which led to its assuagement. During the canvass which had preceded the election of 1877 Senator GIBSON had been a warm supporter and friend and associate of Mr. Tilden. He was close to Tilden. When, however, the great controverted question arose as to the result of the election, and the mutterings of anarchy were heard all over the land, he did not hesitate for one moment, although it brought some odium on him at home and abuse in many other directions.

In the very inception of that unpleasant episode in our political life he lifted his voice and bent his energies to support the creation of the machinery which bridged this country over that controversy and led the ship of state into the tranquil waters of constitutional government, preserved without anarchy and without turmoil.

On all the other great national questions the trend of his character was in the same direction. I recollect during the days of the rag-money craze, when the minds of many were led astray by the delusive pressure for a debased currency, he stood firm for honest and hard money. There was a strong

opinion at home in favor of the greenback heresy. Indeed, an almost unanimous resolution passed through the lower house of the legislature of the State of Louisiana instructing him to vote for the rag money. Despite these facts, unostentatiously but firmly he cast his votes to preserve the purity and value of the money of the country. There are those on this floor who served with him during nearly the whole of his career who have said to me since his death that their estmate of him was of the highest character, because of the fact that his views and influence had always been exerted for that which, in his judgment, he deemed to be best for the good of the whole country and for the preservation of the integrity of its institutions.

Ah, sir, if this was the relation which he bore to this Government in these Halls from a national point of view, how much more valuable and priceless were the services which he rendered the people he represented, looked at from the point of view of their local and peculiar interest. When he came to Congress the people of Louisiana were in the slough of despair and misery; their liberties gone, the shackles of a debased government upon them. That government, whilst depriving them of their liberties, also had despoiled and was despoiling them of the remnant of property which war had left; the lamp of hope had burned out. The depression of the war had been followed by the despair caused by a debased and corrupt government.

Mr. GIBSON, as a Representative from Louisiana, set himself, along with his colleagues, to the task of relieving this situation. Who better was able to do it than himself? The charm of his personality, the breadth of his cultivation, the extent of his acquaintance, the singular fascination which he exercised over men caused him to be, as it were, a minister between the people of the South and the people of the North. The difficulty was to obtain a hearing. How well and wisely he did his duty could be said now by the voices of those on this floor with more

knowledge, with more power, and of course with more eloquence than mine could say.

When, in 1877, through the wise and just action of that benevolent man who has passed away to his reward during the past winter—I speak of President Hayes—when, under his wise and great action, the arm of the military power was lifted from the Southern people, who is it that is familiar with all the events which led up to that conclusion who can say that it was not the pervading, the strong, the subtle influence of GIBSON which gradually opened the minds of President Hayes and his advisers to a proper conception of the situation of the South. And this led to the relief of the burdens which were pressing to destruction people not only in Louisiana but of the entire South. Sir, from the lifting of those burdens every good gift which the people of Louisiana have since enjoyed has in a measure come.

Devoting himself thus to the restoration of local self-government, Senator GIBSON kept a watchful eye to the material interests of the people he represented. When he came to Congress, the mouth of that great river, the mighty artery which takes the commerce from all the West and floats it to the ocean, had an embargo on it as absolute and complete as could be. For years efforts had been made to remove it. GIBSON conducted himself with consummate skill to the furtherance of this legislation.

Whilst military engineers and others were resisting the project of Eads, GIBSON began at once with a tact and clearness and adroitness to demonstrate the mightiness of the project which Eads entertained and the necessity for legislation to assist him. By his efforts, not of course alone by his efforts, but largely by their influence, the legislation which enabled Captain Eads to carry out his plans became law. And ever since the commerce of the world, floating through the disen-

gorged mouth of that mighty river, has blessed the people of the whole valley and is blessing them to-day. I am sure I do not overestimate the value of GIBSON'S services in this particular.

I was looking some days ago at a Life of Captain Eads, one of the greatest geniuses, I think, of modern American life, reared himself in humble circumstances, without great training, but endowed by the providence of God with a mind the elasticity and clearness of which I have never known surpassed. When years were gathering on him and he was retiring somewhat from the work of active life, Senator GIBSON wrote him a letter, or addressed to some friend a letter, suggesting that a commemorative statue should be erected to Captain Eads for the work which he had done for the valley of the Mississippi. What was Capain Eads's reply? I have it, sir, in a letter written by him to Senator GIBSON. It shows how great minds lift themselves up above the mist and pettiness of things low into the region of things supernal.

Captain Eads said:

With respect to the memorial to which you refer as likely to be erected to me by the people of the valley, I will only say that it will not be fitting or complete unless it shall have a twin monument to yourself by its side. I know pretty well how to value my merits, and I know that they would have accomplished nothing without such statesmanship as you have displayed. I have studied very faithfully the laws which control the conditions of inanimate matter. You thoroughly understand the more subtle influences that control the actions of men. You are so ready to lose sight of yourself and make others believe that they are the originators of your plans that you will rarely fail to sway senates and deliberative bodies to carry out and support your measures. In my opinion no memorial to commemorate the labors in behalf of the improvement of the Mississippi River will be complete unless you are the most prominent figure comprising it.

When the work of the jetties was completed, the bestowing of such an inestimable blessing upon the commerce of the valley, there was another situation imperatively calling for

assuagement and improvement. The situation was the condition of the levees on the Mississippi River. The principle which Eads had applied to the mouth of the river demonstrated the possibility of applying it not only for that purpose, but also to preventing the awful devastation which the annual floods of that river carried to the fair fields along its banks.

Through several sessions, changing the form, but always pressing with unerring certainty to the great end which was sought to be accomplished, the mind of Senator GIBSON and the minds of his colleagues succeeded in convincing the people of the United States that there was a necessary intercommunication or interdependence, as is the undoubted fact, between the channel made easy and navigable and the protection of the banks themselves. The result of that great work and the consequences which have come from it, the legislation which has followed in may Congresses, is to-day, sir, that along the banks of that mighty river there are smiling fields and happy homes where erstwhile misery, desolation, and ruin prevailed, because sheltered and protected by the levee work which GIBSON and his colleagues succeeded in having accomplished.

But, in my opinion, the greatest blessing of his life remained to be conferred upon the people whom he represented. A venerable gentleman, living in retirement in Princeton, N. J., and who had accumulated the foundations of his fortune in Louisiana, formed the plan of giving a sum, not very large, for the education of the young men of the State of Louisiana. The philanthropist to whom I refer was Mr. Paul Tulane. This project being in his mind, he looked around for a counselor and adviser to execute it. The large field which Senator GIBSON filled in national life, the fact that he had come to be considered as one of the highest and best exponents of Southern representation, naturally turned Mr. Tulane's eyes to him. GIBSON was sent for. He listened to the purpose. At

once associating himself with Tulane's thoughts, he conceived the idea of opening up to Mr. Tulane's mind the plan of an organization of a great university in the State of Louisiana which should bestow its blessing not only on the living, but upon millions yet unborn. The influence which he exerted everywhere and upon every one with whom he came in contact soon made itself felt upon Mr. Tulane.

Calling to his assistance friends in whom he had confidence in New Orleans, the plans were soon formed. The original conception of Mr. Tulane deepened and widened until, from the elemental thought, a mighty river of benefaction has flowed out upon the people of Louisiana. There has been developed, sir, a university upon broad and deep and wide foundations, embracing in its scope everything necessary for training and development of the highest order.

This work, whilst of course not due to Senator GIBSON alone, is, in a large measure, as to its scope, the result of his influence and his advice. In the last years of his life his mind was constantly preoccupied with this university. He looked upon it, as it were, as a child of his thought. His mind constantly cast itself over the future and formed plans for its development and fructification of the great work which he saw was before him. Such is the life, sir; such its accomplishments.

Ah, what a triumph they are for American statesmanship! What lessons they teach to the young men who are to come on! As I look at the situation of our country to-day, it seems to me that the dominant disease afflicting the mind of our young men is the restless thirst for wealth, is the belief that in the public service there is nothing to be gained—is the growing conviction that neither honor nor profit nor usefulness is found in dedicating one's life to public duty. All this results necessarily in the belittling of public men and the minimizing of the work which they do.

If the true aim of life be, sir, to fill it up with the greatest blessing to one's kind, what life could more completely answer this diseased condition of thought than the one to which I have referred? What mightier object lesson could be given to correct this evil state of opinion than the life of this man which I have thus stated? In what other career could he have had such a wide field of usefulness, affording him an ampler scope for the accomplishment of good to his kind, than that public career which he led?

Sir, there is not a steamship beating along the ocean with a cargo of Western corn that does not recite the triumph of his accomplishments for the American people. There is not a field smiling in that fertile valley or a home blessed by happiness there which does not say: "Behold, this is in a large measure the result of his handiwork!" The youth educated in the university which he helped to found, which he loved so well, have already begun to mingle with society and to leaven and improve it. They furnish living examples of how he was able to do good. The thousands which are to come after, long after all who are here to-day shall have sunk into the silence of the grave, as they look back and appreciate the benefits which his labor bestowed, will associate his name with their great benefactor, Paul Tulane, and rise up and call them blessed forever.

Mr. President, I shall not detain the Senate much longer. I shall endeavor simply to state the dominant characteristics of his character by which he was enabled to do the good which I have thus feebly described. I should say, sir, that the two great distinctive characteristics of Senator GIBSON, which in themselves seem apparently antagonistic, but which, when comprehended with a deeper vision, blend and melt themselves in each other to make up the harmonious whole which was his, were will and gentleness combined—will to do where he saw a work before him to be done; gentleness to draw around

him the kindness and affection of those with whom he dealt, and thus lead them to aid and cooperate with him in the performance of the work which he had undertaken.

With these qualities was associated an almost intuitive perception of the character of men, a singular faculty for analyzing their motives, for touching the mainspring of good in them, for making everyone feel that he was a part and parcel of the great battle which was to be fought, and was to bear a full share of the rewards which were to come from the victory gained. The mightiness of his will power is demonstrated by the fact, known only in a measurable way, but known thoroughly to those who were intimately acquainted with him.

The fact is that the great work of his life was accomplished whilst physical pain, physical disorder, and weakness were ever knocking at the door of his being and threatening to submit him to the dread ordeal of death. Sir, he rose above it all. In him the power of mind put out its masterful hand upon the resisting matter, and behold the result shining forth in the accomplishments of his life which I have endeavored to portray in the feeble words I have uttered.

The tenderness of his affections is shown by an incident which occurred in the last days of his life. A friend proposed to visit Europe and asked me for letters of introduction to the representatives of this Government abroad in some of the European capitals. He desired that these letters should be not only from myself, but from Senator GIBSON also. Complying with the request, I gave him the letters which he desired me to give, and prepared the letters which he desired Senator GIBSON to give. Senator GIBSON was then at Hot Springs, afflicted with the malady which caused his death. I inclosed the letters to him, stating that I had prepared them because I presumed that it would be too much trouble for him to write them, and requested him to sign them and return them to me. After the lapse of

some days the letters were returned. He was in his last illness. The signature affixed to them was hardly discernible. One of the letters which I prepared was addressed to a distinguished gentleman, a classmate at Yale of Senator GIBSON'S. Though the mind was weak, the will was strong and the affection undiminished. When he reached this letter and affixed his trembling signature to it the pen traced below the faltering signature an endearing and tender message of affection to the one to whom the letter was addressed. The lapse of years and the fast approaching presence of death itself had not been able to obliterate from his mind the tender recollections of those college days, when so many ties of affection were formed.

The end of life drew near to him, sir, but death did not come to him suddenly. It came by slow approaches. For many years before his death he had felt a consciousness that at any moment the dread summons might come. I have often heard him express the thought. With this thought dominant in his mind and present to him, looking over the field of life, he naturally turned to the end of all things and the mighty shadow of the hereafter which was to cast itself upon him. I recollect, sir, during the last session of Congress, going one Sunday morning to his library and finding him sitting alone—for he was largely alone in the last years of his life. The inscrutable wisdom of the providence of God in sending him many afflictions had sent him the last and supreme one of taking from him, some years before his death, that gentle being who blessed and graced him, the sweetest, the tenderest, and the loveliest wife I ever knew. I found him alone, and on his knee was a book. I took up the book and said: "General, what are you reading?" He replied: "It is the Psalms." This led us to talk of the hereafter, of the great mystery of human life. "Ah," said he, "as life goes on, and I feel that perhaps only a

few months or years are left me, my mind is turning to thoughts of this nature."

Again he said: "I have reached the conclusion that outside of the broad principles of religion there is no hope for mortals here below or hereafter." Thanks be to the mercy of God, sir, for this consoling reflection, for it leads the mind to see and to know that, as the Angel of Death came to bear him from the land of Time to the land of Eternity, he passed fortified and blessed by the consolation of a faith in the infinite mercy and wisdom of God.

Sir, it was my privilege, as the chairman of the committee appointed to pay the last respect to his memory, to be present at his funeral. As I listened in the church at Lexington to the beautiful words of a venerable priest, calling attention to the evidences of immortality, it filled my heart with hope and with consolation. We carried him from the church on a bleak and wintry day to that beautiful cemetery on the outskirts of Lexington where rest the ashes of Clay, and where gathered unto their fathers are so many noble spirits of the many noble men of that great and noble Commonwealth, Kentucky. Standing in the cemetery, with the bleak north wind blowing and the leafless branches waving over the new-made grave, with a company of cadets from the Military University of Kentucky drawn up upon a knoll above the grave, I thought what a happy fate was Senator GIBSON'S. He was brought back to the soil of his nativity, beaten and worn, it may be, by the struggle of life, but not defeated, for he came back with the oblation of a life full of great things done and nobly done, of duty well performed.

Standing, sir, in silence by the open grave, with so many of the valiant and warm-hearted people of Lexington around, listening to the grizzled Confederates as they recited their prayers and dropped laurels upon his coffin, it seemed to me

that, whilst the situation was full of grief, it yet was suggestive of and instinctive with hope of everlasting joy and happiness. The clouds which darkened the sky above us had the sunshine behind them; the snow which was falling from them was destined when the sunshine came, as come it would, to be caught up and carried by the burning rays of the sun back to the heavens from which it came. The trees, sir, were bare, but I thought that soon the warm breath of spring would come to take them in its loving embrace, and they, too, would bloom and blossom with a new and beautiful life.

This may be a trite but it is a consoling suggestion, sir, of the bloom and blossom of that immortal life which I pray and believe is to be given us all in the world beyond. But, sir, there came to me another consoling reflection. Whilst it was certain that all this renewal of life of inanimate nature would come, what was it which was to bring the laughing life upon the barren bough? Whence was it to come? It was to come, sir, as a result of the mighty conservation of energy, that great law by which nature provides for the throwing off of the useless and the dross, and the conservation for fructuation thereafter of the strength and beauty of existence.

May we not feel that it was so with the colleague whom we laid to rest in his mother earth? Holding up his life well done, and all the good deeds in it, may we not feel sure that, passing from life into immortality, not the immortality of paganism or the more illusory immortality of a sublimated pantheism, but into that blissful hope of immortality born of the faith of Christianity, he carried to his account all the good deeds of his life. "Their works do follow them."

Thinking thus, sir, there came to my mind those words of ineffable consolation, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Address of Mr. Wolcott, of Colorado.

Mr. President: There is a kinship among men who have a common *alma mater*. It is intangible, vague; is not dependent on earlier acquaintance or similarity of pursuits. It is born of the common impulse and aspirations with which a university inspires her sons, and is recognized in some subtle fashion as a brotherhood, always of the mind, sometimes of the heart. And it was probably because, years after his graduation from Yale, I, too, had for a time drawn inspiration from that fountain of learning, that Senator Gibson met me when I came here a stranger and made me know him for a friend.

He was of that glorious class of 1853, whose members have adorned every profession and added strength and luster to the judiciary, to cabinets, to Congress, the press, and to human effort in countless directions in this generation of men. Of them all none wielded wider or better influence than Gibson; none was so much loved.

The impress of his university was strong upon him. Surrounded by classmates and college friends at our annual reunions, he reveled in the recollection of his college days. Devoting largely of his time and effort to the university of his adopted State, the administration of the Peabody fund and of the Smithsonian, of which he was a regent, he everywhere gave token of the belief he cherished that education was the leaven which should lift this people to the truest appreciation of the value of republican institutions—a belief which his college had inspired, and the fruit of her teaching.

The generation now in its full manhood is the first since the foundation of the Republic to see only a free people within the limits of our broad domain. To the added incentive which freedom has brought is due much of the vast progress in arts

and sciences and in civilization which has marked the last twenty years. These are glorious days, but in nothing so glorious or instructive or majestic as that in them there is permitted to our vision and understanding that to which all history affords no parallel, and which to coming generations will never be wholly comprehensible.

We have witnessed citizens of the Republic, who took up arms against it and sought unsuccessfully to compass its division and overthrow, come back into the Union, take part in its government, intrusted with a large share in the shaping of its policy, animated only by lofty and patriotic devotion to its welfare, and representing communities which breathe only loyalty and love for our reunited country. RANDALL GIBSON was of these—a noble exemplar of the type. His path was marked for him by his duty as he saw it, and, dwelling not on old differences, it is blessed to remember that the flag his boyhood's eyes first saw unfurled was the flag he loved when those eyes closed in death.

He must have had consummate political ability, for the politics of his State have been always in ferment; but we saw nothing of that side of him. We saw only the calm, quiet repose, the delightful, high-bred urbanity. He had the qualities of a statesman; but he had more, he had that which charmed; and this charm and the personal influence of his pure life brought him added strength. Alive to the interests of his section, he told eloquently of the devastation the Mississippi had wrought, and the doubts which caution raised as to legality were swept away, and Congress gave him the help his people needed. And during the struggle over the election bill, sometimes called the force bill, his words took double force from the fact that no man knew him who did not know also that his high soul would never stoop to injure the poorest black man who toiled on a Louisiana plantation.

He had unvarying courtesy and fine simplicity of manner, coupled with firmness, which was none the weaker because it was unobtrusive. He was a citizen of the world, but that which soils never touched him. His thoughts turned always toward kindliness. Once, when he spoke to me of Cæsar, whom he greatly admired, he dwelt with emphasis on the strength and warmth of Cæsar's friendships, and how, when he was stricken down, he thought not of escape, but only to cover his face that he might not witness the treachery of his friend.

Senator GIBSON always recalled to me, in person and in character, Colonel Newcome. You remember the touching lines of Thackeray which tell of his passing away. "At the usual evening hour the chapel bell began to toll, and Thomas Newcome's hands outside the bed feebly beat time. And just as the last bell struck a peculiar sweet smile shone over his face, and he lifted up his head a little, and quickly said 'Adsum!' and fell back. It was the word we used at school when names were called; and lo, he, whose heart was as that of a little child, had answered to his name and stood in the presence of The Master." I have shrunk from learning about Senator GIBSON's last days, for pain and he had long known each other, and I fear he suffered much; but we may know that he died as he had lived, fearlessly and uncomplainingly, as became so true and gallant and brave a heart.

He has traveled the way of all men born of woman, the great souls and the little. "One event happeneth to them all," and from none has yet come a voice our ears can hear. If there be somewhere souls of men who have lived, he sits in goodly company, with the truest and the best. If that which was GIBSON now lies in the earth, returned to our common mother, he will yet live in the higher and purer thoughts and nobler endeavor of his fellow-men, towards which his blameless life was both the incentive and the example.

Address of Mr. Gordon, of Georgia.

Mr. President: Eulogies, whether of the living or dead, are to be commended so far only as they are merited and true. No criticism is intended of that custom which converts the grave into a sort of "Holy of Holies," beyond whose barred portals the Spirit of Detraction shall not pass. That the animosities engendered by the conflicts of a lifetime shall all be buried with the dead is the authoritative mandate of universal humanity; and yet loyalty to the living, especially to those whose characters are still unformed, forbids indiscriminate praises, after death, of the man who did not merit them while living.

That venerable law, consecrated by the enlightened sentiment of ages, which forbids that evil shall be spoken of the dead, is ennobling charity, God-like and beautiful, even in its blindness; but, Mr. President, it is far more God-like and beautiful to live a life which requires neither the embellishing touch of charity to guild its virtues, nor the shroud and coffin to conceal its deformities—a life which may be eulogized, not simply because it is ended, but because it was worthily spent.

Such a life was that of Randall Lee Gibson. It was begun in that portion of Kentucky which is unique in its beauty, exceptional in its industrial developments, and inspiring in its surroundings and associations. His character received its tone and vigor and coloring on a Southern plantation and under the molding influences of that inherited institution which for a century made of the Southern people a peculiar one in their conspicuous isolation, which subjected them to constant and perhaps natural misconstruction, and which at last involved them in bloody war; an institution

which (whatever else may be said of it) has left as its lasting landmarks a long line of heroic figures, who with marked individuality, with great intellectual vigor, with acute sensibilities and sterling integrity have won a title to the gratitude of posterity because of their services to the people and the Republic.

General GIBSON'S life and character formed one of these great landmarks, and was the legitimate outgrowth of this peculiar civilization.

That character was both strong and symmetrical. When I say that General GIBSON was brave I would not be understood as affirming merely that he possessed that order of courage which characterizes the true soldier of every age. This he exhibited in battle to a degree which made him conspicuous, even in an army whose intrepidity has not been excelled in the annals of war. But I allude in this connection to that nobler courage which enabled him to follow without trepidation the lead of his own commanding sense of duty unswerved by the apprehension of personal loss.

He was a general in the Confederate army, brave, knightly, and true; and he was equally true to all the obligations imposed by the failure of the Confederate cause. None who knew him ever doubted the extent or depth of his sincere loyalty to the restored union of the States and to all the muniments, limitations, rights, and powers of the American Constitution.

He was a man of intellect, of careful study, and of rare acquirements. He was possessed of all the manly virtues; and yet his nature was one of singular delicacy and of almost perennial sweetness. His native gifts, his extensive acquirements, his knightly spirit and courtly manner made him the fit representative here and everywhere of a great and cultured people.

He was an honest man. I do not mean to assert simply that his personal integrity never bent before temptation nor was ever sullied by the faintest stain. All this; but far more. His was of that most exalted type of honesty which is at once the strength and ornament of the soul, which enshrines justice as a religion and enthrones truth as a divinity.

When such a life goes out it leaves, like the setting sun, radiance behind it, which does not, however, fade with the passing day, but which, though mellowed and softened by the shadows of death, is still a beacon guiding us to a better life here and to the higher and nobler one beyond.

Address of Mr. Voorhees, of Indiana.

Mr. President: Grief and sorrow remain with the living; peace and rest go with the dead. The tortured brow, the tear-stained eye, the heart of anguish, the wail of woe, the lonely, sleepless vigil; the despairing outlook on each new breaking day; all these things belong to the precincts of time, and not to those who have been laid down to sleep in the embrace of their mother earth. The relations between the living and the dead, and the loss and gain to each, have taxed the anxious questioning spirit of all the ages and of every race.

At every step of the skeleton foot of death come also the well-known scenes, and the unsolved mysteries of the eldest as well as of the latest born generations. With every visitation of the glass and scythe, the same strained, startled look and terrified vigilance are to be seen bending in impotent love and tears over the dying as in all the centuries of the past. That quick, swift, high look of vivid, joyous recognition which comes so often as a glimpse of another world into the faces of

the pure and just in their passing hour, is still to be seen as in the days of old, when the heavens were opened and angels appeared to the children of men, and with unaided reason we can know no more, we can go no farther.

We yearn to penetrate the future with the beloved ones who are torn from our clinging arms: we long to lift the veil of mystery which hides them from our embrace; we knock at the tomb and would wrench its iron bars apart to keep unbroken the fond relations of time and sense. What sad heart has not in some desolate hour cried out:

Oh, wanderer in unknown lands, what cheer?
How dost thou fare on thy mysterious way?
What strange light breaks upon thy distant day,
Yet leaves me lonely in the darkness here?

Oh, bide no longer in that far-off sphere.
Though all heaven's cohorts should thy footsteps stay;
Break through their splendid, militant array,
And answer to my call. O dead and dear!

I shall not fear thee, howsoe'er thou come;
Thy coldness will not chill, though death is cold;
A touch and I shall know thee, or a breath:
Speak the old, well-known language, or be dumb;
Only come back! Be near me as of old,
So thou and I shall triumph over Death!

All is in vain. Hollow echoes, like dismal, unmeaning sounds from dark, untenanted caves of earth, respond to our intense and constant calls so long as we are guided by no other inspiration than our own.

But yesterday the gifted, graceful, accomplished, and beloved Senator from Louisiana stood in the pride and beauty of his manhood here in our midst. In this small body of less than a hundred men composing the Senate of the United States his was a personality of high and marked distinction.

The charm of his presence still lingers in this great Hall. The unaffected dignity of his bearing, the sweet courtesy of his manner, the eloquence of his tongue, his winning smile, the warm grasp of his hand, will never pass from the memory of those who knew him best. All our relations to him while living were of the most elevated, affectionate, and ennobling character. What are our relations to him now? Can it be that they are all broken, shattered, dissevered, and forever lost, never to be resumed nor restored in a more permanent life than this?

Can it be that in the brief space of our separation he has gone from us as far as the generations who perished before the flood and in the morning years of creation? The ties that bound us to Kenna, to Barbour, Beck, Logan, Conkling, Carpenter, David Davis, Hendricks, McDonald, Blaine, and others who might be named, are they all hopelessly sundered, not only here in the cold and wintry day of life, but also in the immortal summer beyond?

Sir, tokens of honor and ceremonial tributes to the dead are evidences paid by human instinct as well as by religious faith that the relations of life are not destroyed by death. The pomp and pageantry of martial array, the swelling funeral dirge, and the parting volley over the dead soldier carry with them the love of his comrades, not merely for his memory, but for him personally in the new existence he has assumed. The high pealing notes of the anthem and the lofty eloquence of the orator over the mortal remains of the honored statesman, the eminent ecclesiastic, or other public benefactor are not inspired by the cold clay there lying in state, nor alone by the memory of glorious earthly achievements, but in far higher degree by the feeling that the great liberated soul still lives and may be known by us again in the future.

And so, too, it is with the humblest mourners who bedew the

graves of their loved ones with tears and strew their peaceful resting places with flowers. The mother, the father, the son, the daughter, the brother, the sister, all kindreds, are sustained, soothed, and upheld in their bereavements by a natural as well as by a religious faith that the living and the dead are not lost to each other.

Sir, the biographical sketch of the Senator from Louisiana, proper to such an occasion as this, has been spoken by others; the leading incidents of his brilliant career have been given, and but little, if anything, remains to be said except what may be suggested by his personal characteristics. In the whole course of my life I have not known a more attractive, considerate gentleman than RANDALL L. GIBSON. Our relations were those of an intimate, confiding friendship. We never met nor parted without a mutual recognition of this pleasing fact. We sometimes, too, traced the blood that flowed in our veins back into the veins of ancestral kindred, and greatly enjoyed the idea that we were clansmen from "the Blue-grass La nds," though now in exile, and meeting here from other States.

General GIBSON was born in Woodford County, Ky., sixty years ago last September, and his early life was spent and forme d, as it were, in a camp of chivalry. Men of the highest note and distinction appeared to his youthful gaze every day in the lists of the tournament. In the courts, at the hustings, in legislative halls, and wherever else the people or their representatives were assembled, there the genius and the gallantry of Clay, Bowman, Crittenden, the Marshalls, the Breckinridges, an d others of the first magnitude displayed themselves in profusion and stamped their influence on rising generations.

From the days of Boone and of Harrod to the present hour, whether in peace or in war, Kentucky has been the high school of eloquence, statesmanship, and courage; and never from her

portals went forth a nobler son or a truer type of her culture, as well as of her native graces, than the Senator from Louisiana, who was carried back on the 19th of last December and laid down at Lexington to rest forever in her loving bosom. In that more than royal Necropolis, in that city of the famous dead, by the side of Breckinridge and Beck, after life's fitful fever, he sleeps well.

General GIBSON was an educated man in the fullest and best sense. He was a student in the schools of his native and of his adopted State, and graduated with honor at Yale. He was a traveler in foreign countries, and enriched his mind by an intelligent observation of their inhabitants and the methods of their governments. His natural gifts were brilliant, and his acquirements were extensive and versatile. His interest in the various and widespread branches of learning is shown by the numerous employments he held at the time of his death in connection with great institutions and important movements for the diffusion of knowledge and the promotion of the sciences.

He was president of the board of administrators of the Tulane University of Louisiana, one of the administrators of the Howard Memorial Library of New Orleans, a Regent of the Smithsonian Institution, a trustee of the Peabody Education Fund, and he gave his earnest, active attention to the duties of each one of these important trusts.

During the eight years of his distinguished service in the House and almost ten years in the Senate he fulfilled with conspicuous ability and fidelity every duty devolved upon a Member or a Senator in Congress, and found time besides to permanently associate his name with the highest and most powerful agencies in the cause of universal education. He was not a loiterer in life's vineyard; he slept not on his post; he toiled forward and pushed onward to the end, with his face to

the opening dawn and spreading light of a more glorious future for his country and for the great family of man.

But still other distinctions than those of the schools, the universities, the courts, and the political arena came to the late Senator from Louisiana in his early life. Standing upon the inviting threshold of his peculiarly promising career, at 28 years of age he heard the cannon's opening roar in that dread conflict between the sections of a common country which was to exorcise forever the spirit and the cause of sectionalism and to wipe out a mutual misfortune. He stepped at once into the ranks of those with whom his honor and his life were cast, and with purposes as pure and courage as serene as ever animated a soldier's breast he fought out his side of the mighty issue, and saw at last, according to the immutable decrees of Almighty God, the banner of the Lost Cause droop and fall, never to be lifted up or unfurled again.

Whether at the head of his company or leading a regiment, whether putting his brigade into action or commanding a division on the bloody field, it was plain to all from the beginning to the end of the war that General GIBSON was possessed in an eminent degree of the highest qualities of a great soldier. This fact needs no other evidence than his rapid rise from civil life, without military education, to high and successful commands in the midst of a warlike people at a most warlike period, and in competition with the pride and training of West Point, freshly resigned from the old United States Army.

Obedient without question or murmur to his superiors in rank; gentle and gracious, though decisive; quick and firm in command, he was a model soldier in one of the severest and most exacting wars in the world's history. He was the Sir Philip Sidney of his day. When that more than princely Englishman, governor of Flushing and general of horse at 32

years of age, waived his dying thirst on the stricken field of Zutphen to a private soldier whose need seemed greater than his own, his lofty and generous soul bloomed out in an act of self-sacrificing, chivalric courtesy with which the world has been illuminated for more than three hundred years.

In all the elements which composed his nature, in the refinement of his cultivation, in his unselfish love for his fellow-men, and in his modest silence in regard to his own merits or sufferings, the Senator from Louisiana, whose death we mourn, was on an easy level with the dying British hero, had the occasion called.

Of General GIBSON'S long, useful, and distinguished services in civil life it is needless here and now to speak. They are indelibly written in the archives of his country, and there they will remain while American history endures.

Many of her gifted sons, both native and adopted, has Louisiana furnished to the service of the Republic, but none with purer fame or a brighter, stronger record for the public good than the statesman, the soldier, the gentleman who has just crossed over the river out of our sight. He will return no more to the great, historic Commonwealth through which the current of the mighty Mississippi throbs its way into the ocean; he will never again revisit the land of the magnolia, the cypress, and the palm, nor walk the loved and familiar streets of the Crescent City; but the memory of his noble life, full of good deeds and crowned by a Christian faith, will remain forever fresh and green in the hearts of the people whom he served with faithful, intense devotion from the morning to the evening of his sojourn upon earth.

Sir, the repeated and rapid visitations of death in this Chamber would wreathe it in perpetual gloom, festoon its walls unceasingly with funeral crape, and appall the boldest, bravest

of its members, were it not that we are sustained, as was our late associate in his dying hour, by the assurance so well told by an old English writer:

> The more we sink into the infirmities of age the nearer we are to immortal youth. All people are young in the other world. That state is an eternal spring, ever fresh and flourishing. To pass from midnight into noon on the sudden, to be decrepit one minute and all spirit and activity the next, must be a desirable change. To call this dying is an abuse of language.

ADDRESS OF MR. SHERMAN, OF OHIO.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Never before in any period of my public service have we been so frequently called to mourn the death of our associates. Here in this Senate Chamber, in the Hall of the House of Representatives, and in the supreme judicial tribunal of our country, seats have recently been made vacant and draped in mourning. Many of the most brilliant and distinguished actors in the great events of our time have, within a brief period, met the inevitable fate that awaits us all. It is fitting, even in the hurry of the closing days of the session, that we should pause a while in our public duties to place on record our appreciation of the character and services of our departed associates. In the presence of death the ties of friendship become cherished memories. The contention of opposing opinions is forgotten, and with charity and loving kindness we, the survivors, holding our own lives by a feeble tenure, gather here to speak words of tenderness, generosity, and hope.

No member of the Senate among the living or the dead was more free from the bitterness of personal and political strife than RANDALL LEE GIBSON. I do not recall a single phrase or word uttered by him that could wound the feelings of any

of his fellow-Senators. Always a gentleman, he instinctively observed the courtesy and kindness due to his associates, however much he might differ with them in opinion. He was favored in early life with exceptional opportunities for education, and improved them wisely. He graduated at Yale College with high honor, and in due time received his diploma from the law department of the University of Louisiana. He then had the great advantage of three years of study and travel in Europe.

This training did not, as sometimes is the case, excite in General GIBSON egotism, pride, or selfishness, or a fondness for the institutions, fashions, or dress of foreign countries in preference to those of his own. He was in every sense an American, genial, cordial, and considerate in his manner; plain and simple in his dress; without a shade of ostentation.

His birth in Kentucky and his lifelong residence in Louisiana naturally carried him into the Confederate service. There he exhibited the qualities of a good soldier; brave; attentive to duty, obedient to orders. He won distinction on many of the great battlefields of the civil war. He rose from the ranks to the command of a division.

We have come to regard this fierce and sanguinary struggle as an inheritance from our fathers, growing out of an honest difference of opinion as to the framework of our Government. Poor human nature could provide no arbitrator to settle this contention, but now that it has been settled by a sacrifice of life and treasure almost unexampled in human history, it can be truly said that the result is heartily acquiesced in, and that no slumbering fires can rise from the ashes of the civil war to disturb the unity, integrity, and power of this great Republic. I know that this was the conviction of General GIBSON.

All that he has said and done since the close of the war is in harmony with the opinions of Washington and Marshall,

that our country is an indestructible union of all the people of a great nation living in forty-four separate States in harmonious union, each State possessed of all the powers of an independent government except those granted to the General Government or prohibited to the States. This compound system of government is likened to the solar system, one sun imparting strength, order, and safety to its circling planets, each revolving in its orbit and caring for the life, education, and happiness of its people. In this way only can a vast region of diversified employments and productions and varied interests be bound together in a homogeneous whole, insuring protection to all against foreign powers and home rule to each part. In this Senate we are the representatives of local interests, but bound to consider them in subordination to the good of the country at large. In the performance of these duties General GIBSON was a faithful Representative and Senator. He was able to render to the people of Louisiana the most valuable services, especially in the improvement of the Mississippi River, but he was also conservative in all the great questions that affected our intercourse with foreign nations, our national currency, and the development and protection of our national industries.

The services of General GIBSON as a Representative and Senator from Louisiana can more fitly be stated by his colleague and his successor. My respect for his memory and my sincere sorrow for his death are founded upon my knowledge and appreciation of his character as a man, the purity of his life, the charm of his social intercourse, and his devotion to his wife and children.

My personal acquaintance with him commenced when he was a member of the House of Representatives and I an executive officer. We lived in adjoining houses and were neighbors in the best sense of that word for several years. Our families

had constant and familiar intercourse. Our lines of political action were far apart, but this did not interrupt in the slightest degree the interchange of thought and feeling between us. He was well informed and had clear opinions upon almost every question of science, ethics, history, and politics. He was modest in expressing his views, but he always imparted information and was on the side of law, order, justice, purity, and honor.

I never heard him say anything that might not be repeated in the family circle, or that would excite the reproaches of religious men and women. He was a man of liberal and enlightened views, kind and generous, well educated, not only in the learning of the schools, but in all the varied knowledge that comes to a careful student; an habitual reader, an observant traveler, a good lawyer, blessed also with ample means and a happy home, with a family devoted to him.

It is his home life, rather than his life as a soldier, a Representative, or a Senator, that I wish to recall and present in this brief tribute to his memory. If he could speak to us from the grave, it would not be of the pride and circumstance of war, or the intellectual struggle of debate, but of his wife and children, of his personal friends, of his companionship with books, and his tranquil happiness of home. The loss of his wife was a deep affliction to him. May we not hope that in the immortal life promised by our Christian faith, the profound belief of humanity from the earliest ages, that which we believe in but can not prove, the spirit of Senator GIBSON will be found worthy of a place among the spirits of those who in this life have been honorable, true, and faithful to their honest convictions of duty.

Address of Mr. Mills, of Texas.

Mr. President: The distinguished Senator whose recent loss the State of Louisiana and the whole country mourns was a conspicuous figure in American history for more than a quarter of a century. Four years of that time he was a prominent commander in the armies of the Confederate States, and by cool and steady courage and unerring judgment in field and council he continually rose in the esteem of the government, the armies, and the people, till at the close of hostilities he was one of a cluster of bright stars that illuminated the Southern skies.

In every position in which he was placed he measured up to the full standard of all its requirements, however arduous, difficult, or dangerous the duties which it exacted. He had what is not the common heritage of all men when in the presence of great responsibilities and great peril—a calm, imperturbable confidence in himself. He rested with perfect repose upon the convictions of his own judgment. He never reached a conclusion by assault, but always by the slow approaches of his own reason. When his resolution was reached, if to attain what it required the forlorn hope was to be led, no one rode at its front with steadier nerve than he. As he appeared to me his mental and physical constitution was destitute of enthusiasm. In all the amenities of social life he displayed many of the characteristics of the French, who constituted a large part of the population of his State, but as a soldier he had none of that quality which the French call *élan*, and which we would call impetuosity.

He had more of the dogged stubbornness of the Scotch than of the French, and on the field was a MacDonald rather than

a Murat. He moved along the lines of life in war and peace as he was attracted and drawn by the cold convictions of duty. The alarm of a fire bell at night would not make his eyes glow with unusual light or his blood flow with a quickened pace. In an emergency of any kind the first questions that arose in his mind were: What can I do? What should I do? Having solved them, he would proceed to do what his judgment dictated, and in executing his resolution he would bring into active exertion all the resources of his mind and body.

In open war in the field some commanders of equal courage and intelligence will achieve greater success in defending, while others will win greater success in assailing. General GIBSON was one of the former class. Enthusiasm and even reckless audacity are often invaluable in the offensive. But they were qualities he did not possess and could not command. He had that other quality so conspicuous in the English troops, and which Macaulay says gave its highest exhibition "in the closing hours of a disastrous and murderous day." He had stubborn courage, will power, dogged pertinacity, and self-reliance.

He would have been a great brigade or division commander under Stonewall Jackson, but as a corps commander he never would have attempted what Jackson accomplished. Had he been in command of the Federal troops in the valley of Virginia his camp would never have been surprised and stormed by Early, nor would he ever have rallied and united his broken and routed columns and led them to victory as Sheridan did. His mental constitution was cast in a mold very much like that of General Pat Cleburne. Cleburne was an Irishman utterly destitute of that impulsiveness so characteristic of his people. He had neither the vivacity, the wit, nor the humor of an Irishman. He was as complete a stranger to enthusiasm as he was to physical and moral fear. He was

always calm and thoroughly master of himself and of his situation. No man, in my judgment, in either army, could hold so many of his men around him when desperately assailed. If he was ordered to advance and attack, he did it as he would move upon the field for inspection. He would sit unmoved on his horse and would see his division strike like a bolt of thunder, and no member of his command could tell, from reading his face, whether the battle was going well or ill. He wore the same features on the drill field as on the battlefield. General GIBSON was of the same mold and had many of the same qualities. He was always courteous, discreet, never rash, and never transported with enthusiasm. His courage and self-command rose with the emergency and showed at its best when put to the severest test.

Every commander will impress his own character upon his troops. I have seen the same brigade under two different commanders at different times. Under one it never failed to recoil and break under fire; under the other it always stood a wall of adamant. One attracted and riveted the confidence of his troops and the other repelled it. No commander without personal courage can have the respect of his troops, and without capacity to handle them he can not have their confidence. He must so lead them that they will be proud of their achievements when they stand in the presence of their comrades and in the eyes of their country. No soldier ever saw General GIBSON on any field where he was not master of himself and of his situation and where his troops were not proud of their commander.

No one ever saw him recklessly expose his command where it would be taken at disadvantage. He never sought to win glory for himself by the unnecessary effusion of blood. He kept his eye steadily fixed upon the attainment of an end, and that with as little loss and suffering as possible to his com-

mand and his country. It was this splendid trait in his character that won the confidence and affection of his comrades and enabled him to win reputation in the army and an abiding place in the affections and memory of his countrymen.

It was my fortune to know him as a statesman as well as a soldier. I served with him many years in the other end of the Capitol. He exhibited the same traits in civil that he had displayed in military life. Duty to those who had placed him in a high public trust was the law that governed all his actions. He was a laborious, painstaking Representative. He would investigate every question thoroughly before he would determine his course upon it. He soon took a prominent position in the deliberations of that body, and his utterances always had great weight with its members. He was not fond of speaking. He spoke rarely and only, as it seemed, when driven to it by a conviction that it was necessary he should do so. When it was a necessity to speak he had that rare faculty of knowing when to quit. He realized the fact that his speech would be more effective if his words would cease with his ideas, and accommodated his speech to his convictions.

I have known him in the army, in the House, in the Senate, and in his family. In all the long years of our acquaintance our relations were close, and I had opportunity to see him in all the phases of his character. He was always the same; devoted to his country, his family, and his duty. He was an affectionate husband, and towards his children he had the weakness of a mother. I doubt if he ever learned to say no to one of them in answer to any request. I have been with him weeks at a time when he was in the midst of his family, and I was often reminded of that king of France who said that his baby was the most powerful subject in his kingdom, and when asked why replied that his child ruled his mother, the mother ruled him, and he ruled France. In General GIBSON'S

case the children ruled the father without the intervention of the mother, as is often the case outside as well as inside the boundaries of France.

His wife preceded him to the grave; and he now sleeps by her side in the warm and generous bosom of the State upon whose soil he was born, and for whom throughout his whole life he cherished the most unfaltering affection. He was proud of Louisiana and loved her people with the devotion of a child. He lived to reflect honor upon her who had honored him. For her he had spent his life in peace and offered it in war, but when death came it made a child of him again, and he wanted to sleep with the ashes of his fathers in the beautiful green at Lexington. There his country and his kindred consent for him to rest until the Author of his being shall awake him from his tomb and bid him arise at the dawn of a new day and put on immortality and eternal life.

ADDRESS OF MR. MCPHERSON, OF NEW JERSEY.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Turning back the pages of the book of time for two short years, a brief era in a nation's life, in retrospective view we find a current of sad events, all teaching a lesson which the living may well lay to his heart. In that short period the angel of death has four times invaded this Chamber, and each time removed from mortal eye across the dark river one of our loved and honored members.

To those taken, life was no less sweet than to us who remain. Torn from the loving embrace of family and the companionship of friends by the ruthless hand of death, he, once our brother, is summoned hence to enter, naked, silent, and alone, the confines of the spirit world. How sad the thought that all must die alone, and alone must cross the dark river to

that other country of which we know nothing. The past alone is ours; the future belongs to God. The grassy hillock that is piled o'er the icy bosom, and the record of deeds done in the body, is all that is left to earth of RANDALL L. GIBSON.

I need not speak of his life history and work; the eloquent Senator from his own State will tell the story of his earlier manhood. I will speak of him only as I knew him in the noonday of his life and the full glory of his mental and physical strength. While I can not hope to add to the wealth of eulogy worthy to be bestowed upon our departed friend, my tribute to his memory is not to him as a soldier or statesman, and he excelled in both, but to him as a man—a man of pure and lofty purposes, of pure thoughts, and pure life. As a thinker he was given to retrospect, and in the teachings of history he found a guide to his feet, a light to his path. History repeats itself, he was wont to say, and with the experience of the past before us why can we not avoid many of the faults and misfortunes of the present.

My first acquaintance with RANDALL GIBSON was a chance one. Some time after the late civil war, and after the passions which inspired it had measurably died away, I met him at Brussels, in Belgium, and introduced myself. He had a charm about him always to me irresistible, and, being invited by him, together we visited Waterloo, the most famous battlefield of modern times, toward which the traveler of every race now turns his footsteps. Passing under the gateway where the Belgian lion keeps guard over the dead of three great nations, we strolled to the heights above to where upon that fated field the Emperor watched the battle. The guide pointed out to us the theater of chief events in that memorable struggle in which the armies of England, France, and Prussia met in deadly conflict. No detail escaped the eye and ear of Mr. GIBSON, and at times, soldier like, his mind seemed reveling in

the joyous frenzy of the fight, but later in the day, as the excitement wore away, he turned to me and exclaimed (in substance): How horrible even to contemplate. The blood that stained this ground was shed in vain. Beneath our feet lie moldering in one common grave the bones of Briton and Gaul, who know not for what they fought, except it be for the glory that waits on victory. And what did that great victory accomplish? What did it achieve? It gave nothing to humanity, to liberty, to the rights of man. In like manner, said he, except to strike the shackles from four millions of slaves, what did our late civil war accomplish? What did it achieve that with wisdom and forbearance could not have been achieved without it? Why did not reason and judgment, both here and there, rush to the rescue and save the world from sacrifices so fearful and so unnecessary? Thus did his reflective and disciplined mind reason from cause to effect and from effect back to cause again, in respect of two great events which happened in one half century, and in one of which he acted so conspicuous a part.

Free from passion himself, he viewed with alarm the sordid and sinful passions, the unreasoning yet controlling voices of the multitude, all mingled in one, which had driven in hot haste the ruling spirit of two great continents to deluge the land in blood; and, more than all, he deplored the continual existence of a spirit abroad in the land which might cause it to happen again.

He spoke to me of Kentucky, to whose people he was bound by all the ties of blood and parentage; of her schools, where his education began, and of school friendships early and long bestowed. He paid a high tribute to Louisiana, the State of his adoption, to whose people he was bound by all ties of social and official life, and with gratitude and obedience of heart he mentioned the oft-repeated evidences of her appreciation and regard which bound him to her with hooks of steel.

Not to be favorably impressed with my new-found acquaintance—from that day a friend—and always a cherished friend till the end, was quite impossible. In after years I found him ever the same. The nobility of his character, the gallantry of his heart and mind was visible in every act he did, or word spoken. A strong and resolute man has fallen. In his death the country has lost a champion, who, by experience, had learned the sad lesson that in a free republic resting upon the will and dependent upon the power of the people, not to be found upon her side cheering with his voice and strengthening by his arm in her days of great peril, distress, and danger, was fraught alike with evil to her and to him who would profit by her misfortunes.

To any affront, actual or implied, Mr. GIBSON was morbidly sensitive. His was a proud and manly spirit, void of offense to others; he was ever ready to forgive a wrong or resent an injury. As a thinker he possessed an analytical mind; as a statesman his every act had the sanction of mature reason and an excellent judgment. He scorned deceit, abhorred calumny, and his generous nature forbade him to speak of others except in praise.

It never occurred to him that he could be asked or expected to do anything that would sully his character, and no man ever suspected him of any but honest motives in all he did.

Rest in peace, pure and patriotic heart. Though dead to us, the memory of thy well-ordered life will inspire our hearts to higher and nobler effort.

Address of Mr. Manderson, of Nebraska.

Mr. President: Under the pressure of many demands upon me needing much time and attention, I had not expected to participate as one delivering a eulogy upon this memorial occasion. But when there came to me a few moments ago a request from the senior Senator from Louisiana that I should say something, however brief, it having come to his knowledge that I am probably the only man on this side of the Chamber who had such service upon the Union side that brought him in direct conflict during the war with Senator Gibson, I felt that I ought not to decline, but should pay my tribute to his memory and evidence in this presence my recognition not only of his great and masterful ability, but of that patriotism so eloquently spoken of here that has guided his steps since the evil days of the war.

As these interesting services have progressed my mind has been carried back over thirty years, and there comes to me most vividly a stirring battle scene. The Confederate army under General Bragg was in position about Murfreesboro. The Union Army of General Rosecrans had position at Nashville, over thirty miles away. In the latter part of the month of December, 1862, the army of Rosecrans moved upon the position occupied by the Confederate troops. There came from that movement a shock of arms and a battle that stands forth as one of most desperate endeavor stoutly resisted, and as a conflict that ranks in determined fighting and in dreadful loss of life above any of the battles fought by Napoleon, and is only rivaled by Gettysburg and Antietam, and a few of the other great battles of our own war.

The first day's conflict was on the 31st day of December,

and there came to the Federal Army that partial repulse which drove back its right and which was only saved from being dire disaster and perhaps the scattering of the army of Rosecrans to the four winds by the firm stand taken and held in the center by the troops under brilliant Sheridan and steady Thomas.

The two armies rested on their arms the next day, and on the morning of the 2d of January, 1863, it was my fortune to be in command of a line composed of my own regiment, the Nineteenth Ohio, and the Ninth Kentucky, of which regiment Colonel Grider was colonel, he being in command of the brigade. The demibrigade organization composed of these two regiments being formed, we were ordered across Stone River, which was there fordable, and we took position on the top of a hill that had its easily sloping descent to the river side.

After some little time spent there standing in line of battle, the two regiments under my immediate command forming the right of the line, there appeared to our sight late that winter afternoon as grand a pageant as was ever seen in war. The solid columns of Breckinridge moved out from the position where it had been obscured from view by growing timber and reaching the edge of the timber where there was a fence about an open field, acting as though there was nothing in their front to interfere with their movement so forceful and majestic and with a calmness and a deliberation not usually incident to scenes of battle, the fence was opened, the rails laid down, and they moved out of the woods into the open.

Column after column of attack emerged from the cover in which they had formed and moved with a stateliness and precision that would characterize troops upon dress parade upon the position where we were placed. Behind us was the rapid stream, Stone River. On the other side of the river was the main body of the Federal Army lying ready to support this

feeble brigade of troops that had been thrown as a bait across the river. On a frowning hill near at hand under the direction of Crittenden—the well-known and gallant General Tom Crittenden, of Kentucky—Colonel Mendenhall had massed fifty-one pieces of artillery, all trained with deadly precision upon this hill slope where the Federal brigade of Van Cleve was posted awaiting the Confederate attack.

I never, Mr. President, saw such a terrible clash of arms as came between that line and the advancing columns of Breckinridge. GIBSON'S brigade of Louisiana troops was in the lead in that tremendous charge. I feel like criticising the statement made by the Senator from Texas [Mr. MILLS] when he said that General GIBSON had none of the element of impetuosity in his nature, for it could not be that the column which advanced with such thorough desperation and such impetuous force upon our lines that day could have had a calm and a deliberate leader. We met them with a counter charge that broke the first line of the Confederates and brought us to a hand-to-hand conflict with the second line in the vigorous column of attack. Under its tremendous force our line was driven back to Stone River with dreadful loss of life. In my own regiment out of 449 men with muskets 213 were killed or wounded in the bloody battle of Stone River. As we recrossed the rapid-running river to what I may call the Federal side the guns of Mendenhall opened. It was as though "men fought upon the earth and fiends in upper air."

My recollection is, sir, that you (Mr. WHITE in the chair), in your place, when delivering your eulogy, paid tribute to the bravery of GIBSON upon that field. It was well deserved, for, notwithstanding the dreadful loss and the natural demoralization that came under that dreadful discharge of fifty-one guns at such short range, the retiring of GIBSON'S brigade—in fact, of the entire command of Breckinridge from that field—was

characterized with very little disorder. They retreated in the same masterly manner that they had advanced.

It was my fortune, sir, to be upon other fields in opposition to General GIBSON. I was also at Shiloh. I do not know that he was in the immediate front of that part of Buell's army with which I served. As I have followed the recital of his history and as I have talked with him during his life, for we often "fought our battles o'er" as we met here and at other places since our service together in this Chamber, I recognized that we had moved on parallel though antagonistic lines and know the fact that during the Atlanta campaign we came sometimes in contact.

There is upon the Presiding Officer's desk (and my calling the attention of the Senator from Louisiana to it was the occasion of my making these remarks here) a gavel presented to me a little over a year ago by the men who served with me in my regiment. It is made up of woods gathered from the fields of several of the battles in which my regiment was engaged. There is no battle mentioned on the woods of which that gavel is composed that Senator GIBSON did not serve upon the one side and I upon the other.

But, sir, there has come from this long and fearful conflict, as I believe, nothing but mutual respect, and I believe that respect, aye, a warm and hearty admiration, not to say affection, unites now the men who fought upon the two sides of this great struggle. In saying this I desire to say nothing that shall detract from or minimize in the least the conviction I had then, and have now, that on this side, what I may call our side, the Union side, we were fighting for that which was everlastingly right; and I thank God, and I believe that every ex-Confederate soldier thanks the God of battles, that the result has been what it is—a Union saved and a Union preserved.

If there are any not now satisfied with the result they are not to be found among those who fought on either side.

Mr. President, it has been a pleasant thing to me as I have come in contact with those who fought upon the other side in that dread struggle, whether they fought in the East or in the West, and no matter from what section of the South they came, to recognize the fact that while they exult and properly exult and take pride and a proper pride in the heroism, in the courage, in the persistent endeavor that characterized their efforts, they rival us to-day in devotion to the country, in respect for its flag, and in patriotic determination to do all that in them lies to advance the interests of our common country. We have buried all animosities long ago in a mutual determination and a common purpose.

No man who served with General GIBSON can regret his death more than those of us who fought against him and his cause. We have the same respect for his memory as his comrades in the war. We grieve with them over his loss. He is dead; but, as has been well said by others, the recollection of his life will be an incentive to better lives and higher aims. We shall never see him more; but his memory will live with us as the brightest of recollections to those who had the great privilege of his confidence and the favor of his friendship.

He died as he had lived—"without fear and without reproach."

ADDRESS OF MR. CAFFERY, OF LOUISIANA.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Distinguished and eloquent Senators have spoken in glowing terms of the life, character, attainments, and achievements of Senator GIBSON.

I had not the privilege of an intimate acquaintance with him; it is denied me, therefore, to have that glow of friendship

and that tenderness of memory which throw over the grave the halo of softened and saddened sentiment.

Be mine the office of briefly adverting to those qualities of mind and character which impressed those not within the sacred circle of affectionate intercourse; those qualities which entitle him to the respect and love of his State and his country.

Not like a comet did he shoot across the intellectual sky, dazzling and disappearing, but with steady radiance he shone like a fixed star, emitting the brightest and purest of rays. He did not spring into the martial field full armed and equipped, but with trained valor and cool judgment ascended the steep of fame through the roar and smoke of many a hard-fought battle.

He did not, like Pitt, astonish as a leader before he had served as a subaltern, but rose by slow gradation to command the applause and attention of listening Senates.

By patient labor and deep research he reached his conclusions. If he lacked the inspiration of great genius, he gained the fruits of disciplined talent. If he never ascended to those heights which dazzle the beholder, he never fell below the plane of correct judgment. His parts were more solid than brilliant; his mind more analytic than inventive; his acquirements more useful than showy.

Careful, conscientious, and laborious, he was a faithful public servant and a sagacious legislator.

With no unsteady wing did he soar to high rank in war and proud eminence in peace, but with even pace and inflexible purpose he pursued the objects of his ambition and his desire.

I am informed by a close friend of his that his thoughts constantly dwelt on his "Old brigade;" that brigade which, in winter's snow or summer's heat, in the joy of victory or in the gloom of defeat, followed the fortunes of the "lost cause" with a fortitude, a loyalty, and a courage which won the admiration

of warriors whose stern joy was evoked by meeting foemen worthy of their steel.

The followers of the battle flags of that "Old brigade" are scattered over the hills and valleys, among the towns and cities of my native State of Louisiana. The elastic tread, the erect form, the flashing eye, are gone with youth and war and conflict. The memories that cling to the "Old brigade," the love and admiration of its survivors for their old general, will, like "immortelles," spring perpetual from his grave.

Happy in his death is the man who is followed to his "narrow house" by the respect and love and tears of his fellows. Happier the commander, at mention of whose name the hoary heads of his companions in arms are uncovered and shaking hands wipe away the unbidden tear. These spontaneous tributes to military worth and civic virtue are worth more than "storied urn or animated bust."

As our deceased brother served so well his State in war, so did he stand as her bulwark in peace.

When, in 1876–'77, a direful blow impended over Louisiana, threatening to supplement the destruction of war with the despair of peace, he stood forth her champion. He advocated her just claims with that pursuasive eloquence and convincing logic which the loftiest patriotism only could inspire. Never was there such a cause and never such a client. A great State was pleading for her statehood. The plea was heard, was allowed, and the advocate was forever immortalized and forever enshrined in the heart and in the affection of his people. No brass or marble can ever fittingly commemorate the services which Senator GIBSON rendered Louisiana, when he persuaded General Grant to preserve the *status quo*, and afterwards President Hayes to recognize Francis T. Nichols as her rightful and legal governor.

The two great material works accomplished by General GIB-

son were the formation of the Mississippi River Commission and the establishment of Tulane University. They are both works of more than local bearing. The first is of national importance, and the latter exercises an influence far beyond State boundaries.

He had the sagacity to perceive the correctness of the plan of improvement of the Mississippi, advocated by the great engineer, James B. Eads. He labored successfully for the formation of the Mississippi River Commission, by which that plan was partially carried into execution. The result is that the waters of the mighty river are confined into narrow channels and made to do the work of its own deepening and improvement.

The farmer and the planter in the alluvial lands of the Lower Mississippi rise up and call his name blessed for their partial immunity from devastating floods.

With broad and comprehensive view, he seized on the opportunity, offered by the generosity of Mr. Paul Tulane, to found Tulane University, in the city of New Orleans. That University is an imperishable monument of his sagacity and his usefulness.

He conceived the purpose of establishing a university in his State, through the instrumentality of which she could rise from her ashes.

He knew that the surest foundation for the success and perpetuity of republican institutions is a cultivated knowledge of the genius and spirit of our Constitution. He knew that the lost prestige of the South could only be recovered through the enlightened brain and the cultured morality and the indomitable energy of its citizens.

He knew that her sons were endowed with quick intellects and sound hearts; he knew that poverty had made them industrious, and God and nature had made them honest. He

knew therefore that the vivifying touch of learning and knowledge would bring out the latent powers of the great commonwealths of the South, devasted by war and scourged by reconstruction.

The institution, founded largely through his efforts to mold into enduring shape the beneficence of Mr. Tulane, realizes his fondest hopes. In science, in art, in the departments of law and medicine, it challenges favorable comparison with any university in the United States. There the youth from all over the South, at moderate expense, can lay the foundation for future usefulness. There the strength, the courage, the learning, and the skill may be acquired which will make the waste places within her borders "bloom and blossom as the rose."

There the future statesman may be formed who, with Websterian power and eloquence, may swell patriotic hearts with the excellence, the strength, the elasticity, and the durability of the Constitution of our common country. There the merchant prince may be taught those lessons of finance and trade which will fill his argosies with the golden stores of the ancient empire of Genghis Khan.

And there the great engineer may be taught who will give to science an easy and cheap method of piercing the Isthmus of Darien and open a channel for the commerce of the civilized globe.

Tulane University will hold in grateful remembrance the name of RANDALL LEE GIBSON.

It is needless for me to say to Senators who served with Senator GIBSON that he was formed on broad lines; that his patriotism embraced every section and every interest, and that he constantly looked to our simple yet complex Constitution, and the laws and treaties made in pursuance thereof, as the paramount law of the land.

In his native soil of Kentucky he sleeps by the side of his beloved wife. His adopted State, Louisiana, claims the privilege of placing garlands of affection and reverence on his grave.

Mr. President, I move the adoption of the resolutions.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to; and (at 7 o'clock and 25 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Thursday, March 2, 1893, at 11 o'clock a. m.

EULOGIES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, *March 3, 1893.*

The resolutions adopted by the Senate in honor of Senator GIBSON having been communicated to the House of Representatives upon the last day of the Congress extended eulogies could not then be delivered.

Mr. MEYER said:

Mr. SPEAKER: The few remaining hours of this Congress and the pressure upon it for action upon important public measures renders it impracticable to devote now a sufficient time for the members of this House to pay appropriate and proper tribute to the memory of the late Senator GIBSON.

It is the purpose of the Louisiana delegation in the Fifty-third Congress, at a suitable period during the next session, to ask that the resolutions now presented by the Senate be again called up and the members of that body, of which our distinguished and lamented colleague would still have formed a part had not death summoned him from us, will have opportunity to add the expression of their sentiments and sorrow to the eloquent eulogiums already pronounced by his brethren of the United States Senate.

SATURDAY, *April 21, 1894.*

The SPEAKER. There is a special order set apart for 2 o'clock to-day. It wants but five minutes of that hour, and, without objection, the Chair will submit the special order now, instead of waiting until that time.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That Saturday, the 7th day of April, beginning at 2 o'clock p. m., be set apart for eulogies on the late RANDALL L. GIBSON.

Mr. MEYER. Mr. Speaker, I offer the resolutions which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The resolutions were read, as follows:

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended, that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of the Hon. RANDALL LEE GIBSON, lately a Senator and formerly a Representative from the State of Louisiana.

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his eminent abilities as a distinguished public servant, the House, at the conclusion of these memorial proceedings, shall stand adjourned.

The resolutions were agreed to.

ADDRESS OF MR. MEYER, OF LOUISIANA.

Mr. SPEAKER: A great American poet has said:

Were a star quenched on high,
For ages would its light,
Still traveling downward from the sky,
Shine on our mortal sight.
So when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honored usage of this body and of the associate branch of Congress that on the occasion of the death of one of its members we shall turn aside from the cares and activities of our ordinary duties to pay such tribute of respect as may be due to the memory of the deceased. I ask this House to-day to unite with me in this honor to the memory of one who sat here as a Representative from the State of Louisiana for four successive terms, and in the Senate of the United States from March, 1883, till the time of his death in December, 1892, filling these, as he did all the trusts of a long and varied career, with an earnestness, conscientiousness, and power that made him indeed a man among men.

RANDALL LEE GIBSON sprang from Revolutionary stock, and, like many of our notable men, the antecedents of his family and his early studies of the Revolutionary epoch exerted a marked impress upon his character, opinions, and career. John Gibson, the first immigrant of the family, came from England in 1706 with one sister and several brothers and settled near the lower Rappahannock, in Virginia. Subsequently they removed to the vicinity of Sandy Bluff, on the

Great Pedee River, in South Carolina. They and their kindred, the Murfees, Saunders, Harrisons, and others, warmly espoused the cause of the Colonies and upheld it all through those long, weary years, till when "black and smoking ruins" had taken the place of once prosperous and joyous habitations the patriots of South Carolina entered upon their rich inheritance of freedom.

After the struggle closed the grandfather of RANDALL GIBSON, bearing the same name as his, followed the westward current of American progress and settled in the State of Mississippi, where he became a wealthy planter. His home, termed Oakley, in Warren County, Miss., was noted for its hospitality. His connections and descendants embrace many of the best known names in the Southwest. This grandfather of Senator GIBSON is said to have built the first church and founded the first institution of learning in the Mississippi Valley, fitly named Jefferson College. His wife, Harriet McKinley, was the daughter of John McKinley and Mary Connelly, both natives of Ireland. McKinley was an officer of the Virginia line in the Revolution, and died in the service of the Commonwealth in 1782.

Tobias Gibson, son of Randall Gibson, of Mississippi, and father of RANDALL LEE GIBSON, of Louisiana, settled in Terre Bonne Parish of our State, where he became one of the wealthiest and most influential sugar-planters in that country. He was a warm personal and political friend of Henry Clay, and his summer residence at Lexington was a headquarters for those who supported the great American orator and statesman. Tobias Gibson married Louisiana, the daughter of Colonel Nathaniel Hart, of Spring Hill, Woodford County, Ky. Her mother came from the Preston stock of Virginia, and he himself was nearly allied to Thomas Hart Benton and Mrs. Henry Clay. Spring Hill was one of those great Southern homes and

households which belong to our past history, and were the products of a civilization no longer ours indeed, but yet even now redolent of memories of refinement, culture, manly breeding, courage, honor, and unstinted hospitality, the nurseries of a type of character in men and women that need not shrink from comparison with any other in the world or in all history.

It was in this typical Southern house that RANDALL LEE GIBSON was born September 10, 1832. There and at Lexington, Ky., he passed much of his boyhood. Here was his earliest schooling in books, and here also his other education of country life, with the benign influences of home, family, forest, and field. There was for him a like healthy training at his father's plantation in Louisiana. In 1849 he went to Yale College, where he took high rank and graduated four years later with special distinction. There were formed some of the most cherished and enduring friendships of his life. He always spoke of Yale with proud and affectionate retrospect. His friends at Yale were dear to him always. Of this period of his life the late distinguished Judge Edward C. Billings, his classmate and close friend, said:

> I wish I could fully delineate RANDALL LEE GIBSON as he stood up and delivered the class oration in June, 1853, at Yale College. In his presence and appearance were united that which was comely and fascinating in the beauty of youth and scholarly in speech and that which was commanding in intellect, and above all the impressiveness and dignity of an earnest purpose to do well his part, not alone because it was to be connected with himself, but also because he appreciated and enjoyed everything that was well done.

GIBSON studied law in New Orleans and graduated at the University of Louisiana in 1855. He then went abroad and spent three years in Europe. This travel was not for him a journey of idleness and pleasure, as it is with many. He had been a close and careful student and a diligent reader. His days in Europe were only a part of a liberal education. He studied

in Berlin, and visited Russia and other countries, including Spain, where he spent six months at the American legation. In later life he frequently revisited Europe with his wife, but he traveled mainly for health and instruction. He studied and observed, gathering up stores for future use. He was never an idle man, and what he did was with a high and serious purpose in life.

On his return to America this young man, so well educated and equipped, naturally followed his father's steps and became a sugar-planter. Country life in the South possesses great attractions even for those most richly educated and endowed. There were books, horses, hunting, the duties of the plantation, the kind and just government of those placed under him by the ordination of Divine Providence, abundant leisure and opportunities for study and research, and a society founded upon the sentiment of honor, respect for law, and reverence for women. There was nothing in the fascination of the Old World or of cities to wean him from this plantation life, which had bred Washington, Jefferson, Calhoun, and a host of worthies, and now welcomed to its charmed circle and happiest influences this accomplished and scholarly young recruit.

Even then he took a partial interest in politics, his mind leaning to State rights and Democratic opinions. It was, however, his nature to do well whatever he had in hand, and the work of a sugar plantation, its economies, methods, and forces, he then mastered so thoroughly that when in years long afterwards he came to deal with this great interest as a representative in Congress, the fullness and precision of his knowledge made him easily the first in the work of the committee and of the House, and a bulwark to the people who, struggling for a living, rested on his strong arm and wise guidance. At that epoch, so early as it now seems to us, Louisiana blossomed as the rose. The harvest season in the parishes came to a

wealthy, a prosperous, and a happy population. White and black, living in a repose and peace almost Arcadian, hardly realized that on the horizon there hung the cloud which was destined soon to blacken the fair face of all that bright, sunny land.

Two short years passed and our young planter found himself bound in honor and duty to leave the happy home and peaceful avocations to which his tastes and education naturally conducted him, and to take his part in the stern realities of war. His native land had been invaded; the land of his youth, his home, his kindred, and all that he held dear and sacred was in peril. Of the justice of the cause of the South—that her struggle was purely defensive, however he might deplore the collision of the warring sections—he could feel no doubt. Nor could he doubt as to his duty. It was not a time for any to hold back. Young and ardent as he was, his thoughtful temperament and wise study of history could not fail to impress him with the solemn character of the ordeal of battle. He weighed all the risks to life and fortune, and to the State, but these thoughts to so high a nature as his only nerved and strengthened his purpose.

Sectional passion, with thirty years of cessation of the conflicts of hostile armies, have given place to a broader and more generous feeling and to a yearning for a peace without recriminations or prejudice against any section; but stronger than this wise sentiment we find a disposition to do honor to the manhood and courage of those who in either army periled their lives for their convictions. The list of the heroes of the civil war is beginning to be regarded as a common heritage of honor. Men differ and will continue to differ as to the origin and causes of this great strife, but the discussion is historical, and does not involve present political issues.

In the roll of honor of which I speak, few stand higher than

GIBSON, and none more worthy. His record from first to last is that of duty well performed. The soldiers in my hearing know that there can be no higher praise than this. He lacked unfortunately the vigorous physique which enable many men to withstand the hardships and exposure of camp life, the rigors of the wintry storm, the march, and the many trials of battle. There were no winter quarters with fires, blankets, clothing, and provisions for the Confederate forces. The strain was incessant. It was amid such hardships and exposure near Corinth in 1862 that this delicately nurtured young man first developed that terrible malady—hereditary gout—which in after years so often paralyzed his best thoughts and energies and tortured his frame to the infirmity which would have driven a common man to seek repose.

The intellect and the will triumphed over the body, and for over thirty years, in war and in peace, he braced himself to perform the duties of life. He was not an educated soldier, but he soon made himself a thorough one, and as such won the confidence of his troops and the commendation of his superior officers. Entering the Southern army as a private in the ranks, he was soon appointed to be a captain of the First Louisiana Artillery, and was stationed at Fort Jackson, below New Orleans. Not long afterwards he was elected colonel of the Thirteenth Louisiana Infantry. At Shiloh, before the battle, his regiment was assigned to picket duty with three others, and all, as it chanced, were without a brigadier. By common consent this honor was conferred upon him, and this brigade, thus led by GIBSON, made a special reputation for heroism in those two days of fierce slaughter, stubborn endurance, and wonderful valor.

Hardly any brigade was more severely tried and tested in that battlefield than the regiments thus hastily thrown together under a new commander, and no man but one of rare

force could thus have evolved from raw troops the steadiness and work of veterans. The service thus performed was the prelude to a long and honorable career. GIBSON was present in the battles of Perryville, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, and other fields, and in the campaigns of 1862, 1863, and 1864 of the Western army. One-third of his brigade was killed and wounded at Murfreesboro. He was trusted and commended by Polk, Hardee, John C. Breckinridge, Cheatham, Dan Adams, Maury, Preston, Stephen D. Lee, Richard Taylor, Joseph E. Johnston, and Hood.

General H. D. Clayton, in his report of the battle of Jonesboro, fought on 31st August, 1864, says that Brigadier-General GIBSON, seizing the colors of one of his regiments, dashed to the front and to the very works of the enemy. The brigade lost there one-half of its members. General Stephen D. Lee makes special mention of the gallant crossing of the Tennessee River near Florence, Ala., by GIBSON and his brigade. When Hood's army was defeated at Nashville by Thomas, it fell to the lot of this brigade to check the progress of the enemy near Overton Hill under the immediate eye of General Lee. General Hood gives him the highest praise. He says:

> General GIBSON, who evinced conspicuous gallantry and ability in the handling of his troops, succeeded, in concert with Clayton, in checking and staying the first and most dangerous shock, which always follows immediately after a rout.

Again, he says that GIBSON'S brigade and McKinzie's battery of Fenner's battalion acted as "rear guard of the rear guard." Here we have a soldierly character and force developing itself and shining the more brightly as calamity thickened and the ordeal became more difficult with great and greater odds and each hour bringing a lessening hope of final victory. Other work, however, remained to be performed. When General Canby with a heavy force moved against Mobile, General

GIBSON was detached by General Maury from his main army with a few less than 2,000 men and ordered to hold Spanish Fort on the east side of Mobile Bay. For more than two weeks, amid incessant fighting, he maintained his position in the intrenchments of these works against a force estimated to be 20,000 strong, aided by seventy-five cannon and a large fleet, inflicted a large loss upon his assailants, and finally by a well-conducted retreat saved nearly all his command except those already killed or too severely wounded to be withdrawn.

These operations at Mobile Bay were the last great struggle of the war. General Richard Taylor, in recognition of GIBSON'S services, enlarged his command, but this long and dreadful conflict of the two sections came to a close, and was terminated by surrender of the Confederate armies. General GIBSON'S parting address to his troops was worthy of him and of them. He said:

> As soldiers, you have been among the bravest and most steadfast. As citizens, be law-abiding, peaceful, and industrious.

This closing sentence furnishes the key to his political action and aims from 1865 till the hour of his death.

Like nearly all his associates, General GIBSON found himself at the close of the war ruined in fortune. His father's splendid sugar estate in Terre Bonne was a wreck. To restore it without ample capital and reliable, efficient labor was impossible. He therefore settled in New Orleans and devoted himself to the practice of the law. His labors were crowned with unusual and immediate success, for few possessed higher adaptation to the requirements of the bar. It was at this time of his life, in 1867, that he met and married Miss Mary Montgomery, the charming and accomplished woman who lent such exquisite grace to his household and brought to him a tenderness and devotion that made her indeed a ministering angel. It was her fate to be summoned before he was called away, but not

until many years of mutual happiness had blessed them both and strengthened him to meet the increased cares and burdens of a public career and to bear up under the malady which for long years impeded his best endeavors.

Hardly any man in Louisiana was better qualified for a Congressional career at the close of the civil war than RANDALL GIBSON, but the way was not open for him or for any representative man of Louisiana till long afterwards. To recall the epoch now seems like reviving a painful dream. The State of Louisiana was fast bound in misery and chains. It was held in the iron grasp of an alien rule under which neither its intelligence nor property had a voice. The State had been left by the war literally a wreck and a desolation.

The work of rebuilding the waste places, the restoration of paralyzed industries, the reorganization of society, education, and the like would have been a herculean task under the best auspices and by the best of men, but nothing was done to evoke the best forces, and, on the contrary, everything to wound, to oppress, and to retard the healthful process of recovery. It was not until 1872 that RANDALL GIBSON could be elected to this House, and even then he was not admitted. In 1874 he was chosen by the First district of Louisiana, and took his seat in December, 1875, as a member of the Forty-fourth Congress. The House was full of strong men. Among its members were Kerr, Sayler, Blackburn, Cox, Garfield, Holman, Lamar, Blaine, Morrison, Randall, Tucker, Alex. H. Stephens, and GIBSON'S gifted colleague, E. John Ellis, of Louisiana.

But if the actors on the stage were able and brilliant, the themes were even greater. Party passion ran high. The feelings of the war had only slightly subsided. The Southern States were only slowly and painfully regaining their equality in the Union. Three of the number, including Louisiana, were

yet struggling for home rule, the rule of the taxpayer, and for a staple and economical government suited to an impoverished people, for the right to work and accumulate free from wanton spoliation. There were strong prejudices to be disarmed, the prejudices of a powerful party that had long held the National Government.

The situation was complicated by the pending of a heated Presidential struggle which threatened the country with a civil war, not between sections but nearly balanced parties. When was there ever a condition that imposed graver duties and responsibilities on a representative of Louisiana or required more of wisdom, judgment, strategy, self-control, diplomatic tact, and resources than this? and yet it is not too much to say that Representative GIBSON proved himself equal to the occasion. He had had no previous legislative experience, but his education and studies were profound, and he soon proved himself a natural parliamentarian and man of affairs.

At the outset of his legislative career General GIBSON, whose aim was to avoid violent controversies, and by appeals to reason of both parties to accomplish results for the general good, found himself forced to meet repeated assaults upon his State and constituents involving their good name and conduct. One of his earliest speeches in Congress was a vindication of Louisiana in connection with the election of 1876 for President and State officers, and thus it became necessary to review the work of the famous returning board. He discharged this unpleasant duty with frankness and plain speech, but he put the cause of his State with a spirit of justice, moderation, and fairness that could not fail to impress the House and public opinion. He spoke from the standpoint of a national and conservative statesman, accepting the logic of events and the results of the war so disastrous to the South, accepting emancipation and the equal political rights of the two races as a

basis of action, disclaiming sectionalism, deprecating it, and pleading for peace and justice to his people. He never departed from this keynote of policy throughout his career, not even in denouncing bayonet rule and the use of troops at the polls.

It was this admirable temper and national spirit, joined to his high character and rare power in personal intercourse with men, that enabled him to appeal successfully to President Grant at the most critical moment in the history of Louisiana, and to stay the effort that was made to induce President Grant to employ the army to crush out the rightful government of the State. The struggle of the friends of the Packard government to win General Grant in this juncture was incessant. The strongest influence wielded against them, as they well recognized, was that of Representative GIBSON. Both under the administration of President Grant and President Hayes there were men who rendered most invaluable service, but there is no one to whom Louisiana is more deeply indebted for her final deliverance than GIBSON. He had the respect of President Hayes, who freely consulted him. There was nothing loud or ostentatious in this great service. Like most of the potent work in public life, it was rendered quietly, but it was none the less effective. Then once more with the light of hope upon their brows the sons of Louisiana began to plant, to sow, and to reap. Anarchy, misrule, and despair gave place to order and progress.

But aside from all sentimental questions and the transcendent issue of local self-government, and both before and after its final adjudication, the most difficult duties devolved upon a representative of Louisiana. These were not party questions, but they were not less difficult of adjustment and demanded the most unwearied and skillful devotion. Among the most important of these issues which required General GIBSON'S con-

stant care from the day he entered this House during his four terms of service and in the Senate after he entered that body in March, 1883, were the protection of the great sugar interest of Louisiana and the question of the improvement of the Mississippi River. Both were vital to Louisiana and important to the whole Union. But he thoroughly understood them, and in knowledge of each he had hardly a peer in either branch of Congress. To detail the successive steps of his labors on these questions would be to repeat their history for a series of years. I can barely glance at a work so familiar to his contemporaries in Congress.

The sugar industry of Louisiana before the civil war had grown to large proportions and supplied one-half of the American consumption. By the havoc of war and emancipation it had been reduced to almost nothing, but was now gradually expanding. Upon its maintenance and development depended the subsistence and prosperity of nearly half of the people of the State, but this development it was vain to expect under hostile tariffs. All through the earlier period of American history down to a recent date the propriety and necessity of the duty upon sugar had been questioned by no party or statesman. It was a prominent feature in every tariff for a hundred years. But soon after General GIBSON took his place on the Ways and Means Committee in the Forty-fifth Congress he found himself confronted with measures involving changes in the revenue laws.

The wisdom and lessons of the past were only partially remembered, and this interest so important to his State was imperiled by repeated assaults and propositions which, if carried, would have wrought a fresh desolation in Louisiana. He was a friend to the policy of a revenue tariff and moderate duties, for he had been a wise student of economic science, but for that very reason he demanded a fair revenue duty on sugar.

He was not willing to see Louisiana sacrificed to foster the interests of Cuba, Jamaica, or any other country. As far back as 1876 he opposed the passage of the legislation devised to carry out the Hawaiian reciprocity treaty, which he deemed injurious to American interests. His labors for the sugar industry in the committee, in speeches on the floor, and with individual members of both parties engrossed much of his time and energies. He had a perfect knowledge of the numerous details and intricacies of these duties, and he knew the history of the contest and the past legislation. He had the skill to grasp a difficult situation, to combine favors and influences, to judge what could be done and how to do it; how much to yield and how much he could fairly demand. No cunning device of unfriendly interests escaped his watchful vigilance. He was always on guard and always at the front. He was the recognized leader of this interest in Congress every day and hour of his service, but it was as a public officer and not as a planter to be personally benefited; for he never had the capital to restore his old plantation. The final adoption of the polariscope test was largely due to his early and constant advocacy of its merits and necessity to protect the revenue and prevent fraud. The whole subject of this industry was to Congress a new discussion, but he illuminated it with a flood of light.

Not less valuable were General GIBSON'S wise services in respect to the legislation happily enacted by Congress to harness the forces of that mighty current well termed the "Father of Waters," to make it the great artery of a vast and increasing commerce, to prevent its ravages and destructive floods, and to make it an ally to civilization and industry, a blessing to man instead of a curse. The genius of Captain James B. Eads had already pointed out the way to open the closed mouth of the Mississippi, and the liberal hand of Congress responding to the call of the great valley had provided the means

One of Representative GIBSON'S earliest steps in Congress was to aid in supplementing this legislation by modifications which enabled Eads to continue his work, to expedite it, and push it forward till, to use the words of GIBSON himself, "the jetties were a perfect success." But, the main problem, namely, the treatment of the great river from Cairo, or indeed from its head waters to the Gulf, remained to be solved.

The most eminent hydraulic engineers of the country had made its forces and phenomena a study and had differed as to the remedy to be applied. The best thoughts of the best minds of the South and West in Congress at this time were exercised upon the two great questions: first, what plan of treatment for the river should be adopted; and next, supposing some mode to be preferred, how could Congress be induced to grant the ample means needed to carry out the plan. For a long period efforts had been made to induce Congress to rebuild the levees, but all these efforts had failed. Captain Eads had for years insisted on the policy of concentration of the waters and obtaining a uniform width for the river; but there were so many conflicting opinions and plans that it seemed vain to ask Congress to adopt any one of them.

Amid all this confusion of counsels it was the happy conception of General GIBSON to propose a scientific commission, to be composed of the ablest men engaged in the public service and in private life, who should examine the river with a view to the improvement of its navigation, the prevention of floods, and the promotion of commerce, and after considering the different plans and methods suggested to report to the Secretary of War a plan of comprehensive improvement. It was this plan of a commission that was finally adopted by Congress, and to it the country is indebted for the most beneficent results already accomplished and for the assured prospect of final realization of one of the greatest works of modern civilization.

Yet this wise law was not passed until after years of persistent struggle by its friends.

Out of the many able and zealous friends of this policy in Congress from all sections of the country who contributed to its adoption and maintenance, Representative GIBSON was most conspicuous by the earnestness, fullness of information, and power which he brought to the discussion, and by the ceaseless vigilance and strategy with which he guarded the River Commission against all attempts to impair its powers and usefulness. The plan of treatment for the river adopted by the Commission was mainly the one advocated by Captain Eads and in which General GIBSON fully believed. The mind in Congress which expounded and defended the plan of the Commission and the arm which upheld it, Eads always recognized as GIBSON'S. The names of both men are linked inseparably with this great measure. How eloquently does it contrast with the fruitless strifes and bitter phrases of lesser minds? Who shall set bounds to its blessings or put too high a value on the patriotism of those who carried it on to its high consummation?

I need not review the work of General GIBSON on other questions as a Representative and a Senator. The location of the mint at New Orleans, the establishment of closer commercial relations with Mexico and South America, the general work of river and harbor improvement, the reformation of the tariff, questions of the currency, the educational bill, the work of the Agricultural Bureau, the forfeiture of the land grant of the Backbone Railroad Company—these and many other topics were the objects of his care. He labored unsuccessfully to curtail the secret sessions of the Senate and to repeal the objectionable statute which disfranchises all ex-Confederates for positions in the Federal Army.

He never spoke for mere display. No small part of the most

valuable work of a Representative is done in committee or in personal intercourse with his associates or with the President and heads of Departments. General GIBSON'S influence in all these directions was unusual. He neglected none of the honorable instrumentalities essential to success. He had the confidence and respect of every President from Grant to the present occupant of the chair. His personal relations with such eminent men as Beck, Morrison, Randall, Carlisle, Bayard, Lamar, Tilden, Andrew White, Evarts, Sherman, Garfield, Hayes, Cameron, and Blaine were such as few enjoyed. The value to his people of such relations of confidence is too obvious to be insisted on.

RANDALL GIBSON was an educated man and a scholar. He took the deepest interest in every scheme for educating the youth of the South, for none knew better than he the value of such education and how greatly the opportunities for acquiring it had been cut off by the waste of the war and the widespread poverty of the people. It came to him, therefore, like a benediction when Paul Tulane, then living at Princeton, N. J., but a former resident of New Orleans, sought his aid and counsel in carrying into practical effect his noble and benevolent plan of making a large donation for the "encouragement of intellectual, moral, and industrial education among the white young persons of the city of New Orleans." Mr. Tulane could not have found a wiser or more sympathetic adviser than RANDALL GIBSON. He formulated the method and plan on which the donation was to be made and defined the purpose to which it was to be applied.

As has been said by one who well knew whereof he spoke:

> He selected the men whom Mr. Tulane associated with himself as the trustees of his sacred gift. As president of the administration, he impressed on each and every one of them his own high sense of the gravity of the functions with which they were charged. He was the electric cord

which connected them directly with Paul Tulane, and maintained that perfect harmony and confidence between them which led to the constant enlargement of his bounty. His wisdom selected the distinguished man who as president of the university has organized its splendid faculty, has shaped its course of study, has planned its methods and degrees, and has in all respects conducted its affairs with such signal sagacity and success.

In a word, the character and intellect of RANDALL GIBSON are thoroughly impressed upon this munificent foundation of the noble philanthropist. This institution was the object of General GIBSON'S love and solicitude even to his latest breath.

Early in November, 1892, Senator GIBSON, then in New Orleans, was seized with a recurrence of the malady which had so many years preyed upon him. His physician ordered him to the Hot Springs of Arkansas, where on a former occasion he had found much benefit. He went there under the care of a devoted friend, and at first he seemed to improve. But this was only illusory. His disease had approached nearer and nearer the citadel of life. His powers of resistance had waned till nothing was left but to yield with composure and courage to the last dread summons. He passed away on the 15th of December, 1892, surrounded by those whom of the living he loved best. Death did not find him unprepared. His dear wife, whose name in his last moments was so often on his lips, had preceded him years before to the better land. He had realized for many months how frail was his tenure of life, and he had made calmly all his arrangements for his last journey. The love and care of his surviving children were much indeed to live for; but his public career was well rounded and complete. It lacked nothing in its perfect symmetry.

Hardly any man of our day had had a better or higher conception of statesmanship. He was always a student of affairs, of history, of religion, morals, and conduct. Everything relating to the foundations of government, and especially our own Government, he had studied. He was familiar with

ancient and modern history, with the lives and writings of Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, and all the great men of the Republic, and with what may be called the classics of politics. Whether in debate or private intercourse he was effective. As a speaker he was direct, argumentative, persuasive. He brought to bear all the resources of legitimate debate; but he was careful not to wound the feelings or impugn the motives of his opponents. His retort might disarm, but left no sting. His gentleness, tact, and consideration for others was conspicuous in public and private life. He spoke well, yet he was eminently practical. He aimed in action not so much to destroy as to build up and create; in speech to conciliate and convince. He understood the arts of government, the necessity for compromise, and the value of peace with honor.

Hardly any man from the South of late years has so much impressed himself on legislation. In his public relations General Gibson, without being repellant, bore himself usually with a certain degree of stateliness and reserve. But in the society of his friends no one could be more natural, frank, engaging, and companionable. He enjoyed social intercourse, but no one was more abstemious or free from dissipation. He was a man of clear morals and speech, and was imbued with the profoundest respect for religion and virtue. Bigotry he had none. He believed in religious liberty in the largest and best sense. As a friend he was kind, sympathetic, instructive; as a man of society, courteous and conciliatory; as a husband and father, tender, affectionate, and true.

> His life was gentle, and the elements
> So mix'd in him, that nature might stand up
> And say to all the world, "This was a man!"

If he had ambition, who shall blame him? It was an ambition not low, nor selfish, nor sordid. It inspired him to serve

his State and the Union, to help to build up an impoverished and suffering section, and to increase the happiness and progress of mankind. It is by such generous aspirations that humanity advances to successive triumphs and states become great and opulent.

A man will sometimes unconsciously reveal his own nature in describing another's. We find a broad light cast upon the formative influences that shaped the character of our departed friend in his own eulogy upon the late Thomas H. Herndon, of Alabama. Said he:

> As a general rule, public men are the logical expressions of the tone and temper, the outgrowth of the local conditions and habits and culture and institutions, of the people, and indicate their characteristics and qualities as surely as certain plants and fruits and trees do particular climates. His family [Mr. Herndon's] had emigrated from Fredericksburg, a part of the Old Dominion which had been prolific in men celebrated for all the virtues that adorn human nature, as well as polished manners and intellectual accomplishments. They belonged to the country people of Virginia who have given to the world names that command its admiration and homage. * * * Inheriting traditions so elevating and representing a people themselves intelligent, brave, and virtuous, how could he prevaricate, or attempt to deceive or descend to subterfuge, or play the demagogue, or betray any trust, or fail of duty anywhere, or his name be less than it was—the synonym for honor.

On another occasion we find him laying a flower upon the grave of a departed colleague, Michael Hahn, of Louisiana. He cited a passage taken from Festus by Mr. Hahn in a published address, and said he doubted not that the noble sentiments therein expressed found a lodgment in his memory because his heart beat responsive to them, and that they inspired the aspirations of his life. These words match well and fitly the soul and aims of him of whom we speak to-day:

> Life is more than breath and the quick round of blood:
> It is a great spirit and a busy heart.
> The coward and the small in soul scarce do live.

One generous feeling—one great thought—one deed
Of good, ere night, would make life longer seem
Than if each year might number a thousand days
Spent as this is by nations of mankind.
We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;
In feelings, not in figures on the dial.
We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives
Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.

ADDRESS OF MR. BLAND, OF MISSOURI.

Mr. SPEAKER: I first knew the late Senator GIBSON as a member of the Forty-fourth Congress. I believe he was elected, if I mistake not, to the Forty-third, the first Congress in which I served in this House, but did not take his seat. It was during the Forty-fourth Congress that the great question of the coinage of the standard silver dollar was first brought to the attention of the country. Mr. GIBSON, in that Congress, took an active part in the discussion of the currency question, and especially of the silver question. That Congress authorized a joint commission to investigate that subject, composed of three members on the part of the House and three on the part of the Senate. The House appointed General GIBSON, Mr. George Willard, of Michigan, and myself, and on the part of the Senate the commission consisted of Mr. Jones of Nevada, Mr. Bogy of Missouri, and Mr. Boutwell of Massachusetts. This commission made an investigation of that subject, the result of which is known to the country.

I remember very well General GIBSON'S part in that commission. His scholarly services showed that he had fully investigated the subject and had an uncommon grasp of the theory of money. Although I differed with him in that report and upon the question, yet no one who knew him ever doubted his honesty and sincerity.

Those who served with General GIBSON in the Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth, and Forty-seventh Congresses—for I think he was here eight years—remember well the part that he took in procuring legislation for the opening of the Mississippi River to navigation, the great ability that he displayed in advocating the construction of the jetties, cooperating with that greatest of civil engineers during his life, James B. Eads.

I can remember full well the many speeches that General GIBSON made in advocacy of the Mississippi River Commission. That was one of his great labors in this House—a labor which has been rewarded with great success.

Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to undertake to eulogize the memory of General GIBSON, but simply to call attention to the most prominent parts that he took as a member of this House. We all recognized his great abilities, his great zeal, his earnestness of purpose. He was a man of scholarly attainments, of indefatigable industry, always amiable and affable; at all times, in all places, and under all circumstances a gentleman. Peace to his ashes!

ADDRESS OF MR. HENDERSON, OF ILLINOIS.

Mr. SPEAKER: The late Senator RANDALL L. GIBSON, of Louisiana, was elected a member of the Forty-fourth Congress and took his seat in December, 1875, at the same time I did—he on the Democratic and I on the Republican side of the House. Looking over the list of members of that Congress to-day it will be found that but seven of all the members who served with Senator GIBSON in the Forty-fourth Congress now remain in the public service as members of this body. They are Judge Holman of Indiana, Mr. Bland of Missouri, General Harmer of Pennsylvania, Judge Culberson of Texas, and Mr. Cannon, Mr. Springer, and myself, of Illinois.

Six members who served with Senator GIBSON in the House as members of the Forty-fourth Congress were serving with him in the Senate at the time of his death, and still remain Senators, viz, Senator Hoar of Massachusetts, Senators Frye and Hale of Maine, Senator Blackburn of Kentucky, Senator Mills of Texas, and Senator Hunton of Virginia. And so, Mr. Speaker, there are to-day but seven members of this body and but six members of the Senate who were associated with Senator GIBSON as members of the House of Representatives in the Forty-fourth Congress. Such are the changes among those who make the laws of the land.

Many members of the Forty-fourth Congress, I trust, still survive, and are enjoying the quiet of private life, free from the noise and dissension of political strife, and free from the care and anxiety which a faithful public servant in the conscientious discharge of his public duties must ever feel. Quite a large number, like the distinguished Senator to whose memory we pay tribute to-day, have passed away, and are now safely over the other shore, where we know we must sooner or later join them. But Senator GIBSON was not only a member of the Forty-fourth Congress, but was reelected and served as a member of the Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth, and Forty-seventh Congresses, and at the close of his fourth term in the House, having been elected a member of the Senate, he took his seat in that body and remained in the Senate until the day of his death. I can not say, Mr. Speaker, that I was at all intimate with Senator GIBSON, either while he was a member of this body or after he became a Senator. But from our first meeting as members of the Forty-fourth Congress I had a pleasant acquaintance with him and knew him well, and he always impressed me as a gentleman of high character. I was not associated with him on any of the committees of the House on which he served, and it is there where we have the best

opportunities, I have thought, of observing the better qualities and real worth of members. But he was a man of ability, and in his second term was made a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and again served as a member of that committee in the Forty-sixth Congress.

In the Forty-seventh Congress, the House being Republican, he was made a member of the Committee on Commerce, that committee then having not only its present jurisdiction, but also jurisdiction over rivers and harbors, and I feel entirely justified in saying that Senator GIBSON was an active, intelligent, and prominent member of those important committees. I however remember this distinguished gentleman more particularly for the great interest he took in the improvement of the Mississippi River. Representing as he did, like myself, a district bordering on the Mississippi River, and feeling a deep interest in everything relating to its improvement, as both of us did, we were in that way brought together and worked together for the permanent improvement of that great river, which waters one of the greatest and richest valleys in the world, and I am sure no one took deeper interest in all legislation relating to the Mississippi River and its improvement than did the late Senator GIBSON.

The people of the Mississippi Valley and of the whole country, as I believe, are greatly indebted to him for the legislation leading to the creation of the Mississippi River Commission and the entering upon the great work of the permanent improvement of the river. If he had done nothing else, his public service in connection with the improvement of the Mississippi River alone would entitle him to the gratitude and respect of the country, and most certainly to the people of the Mississippi Valley.

As a native of the South, it was not unnatural that Senator GIBSON should have been found a soldier in the Confederate service during the late war.

I am not, Mr. Speaker, sufficiently familiar with his military service to refer to it to-day, particularly. That he was a brave and gallant officer and served with great distinction the cause he believed to be just there can be no doubt. The tribute paid to his memory by sorrowing comrades when he was laid away at rest by the side of his wife, at Lexington, Ky., was touchingly beautiful, and showed that his memory was revered not only by them, but by the multitude who had assembled to honor the departed citizen, soldier, and Senator.

Mr. Speaker, it was with deep regret I heard of the death of Senator GIBSON: I followed his remains to their last resting place with sadness and sorrow. He was a pleasant, courteous, dignified gentleman, liberally educated and highly cultured. He was an honorable, able, and faithful Representative and Senator and a brave and gallant soldier, and I am glad to have the opportunity of uniting with his friends to-day in paying tribute to his memory.

ADDRESS OF MR. BOATNER, OF LOUISIANA.

Mr. SPEAKER: In the death of RANDALL LEE GIBSON Louisiana lost one of her most devoted sons and most valuable public servants. He served her in war and in peace, in the camp and the council, always with devoted loyalty and always acceptably. He possessed the confidence of her people, and now that death has silenced detraction and removed the cause of jealousy which always attends successful careers, no one denies that he deserved it. It has not fallen to the lot of any other Representative from that State to be prominently connected with so many measures of vital importance to her welfare.

To him was given the credit by the late Captain James B. Eads for the success of the legislation which promoted the con-

struction of the jetties at the mouth of the Mississippi, which have been of such inestimable benefit to the whole valley. No other Senator or Representative could claim equal effectiveness with him in the adoption by Congress of the great policy of internal improvements which promises in the near future to redeem the valley of the Mississippi from the ravages of overflow and restore its old-time fruitful abundance of production. Every industry and interest of the State received his watchful and tireless care; and when the time came to surrender earthly responsibilities he could well have said that his services to his people repaid them for all the honors they had conferred upon him.

General GIBSON was not only the watchful guardian of the interests of his adopted State, but one of her most valuable contributions to the councils of the nation. A classical and thorough education, broadened by contact with the best and highest minds of the age, qualified him to grapple with the great questions which presented themselves for settlement in the years which immediately succeeded the war between the States. Conservative in his temper, tolerant of the views of others, but firm in the maintenance of his own, he commanded, by reason of his distinguished military service and acquaintance with the leaders of thought both South and North, an influence possessed by few who hailed from the stricken South. That that influence was wisely used is attested by the undiminished respect and confidence of his colleagues at the time when "he passed over the river to rest in the shade of the trees." One by one they go—GIBSON, COLQUITT, VANCE. Few are left, and in the ordinary course of nature not many years can pass when to speak with jeers of the "Confederate brigadiers" will be to insult the dead, the noble dead, who have illustrated by their lives the best, the noblest, and the truest traits of American manhood. The time will come, sir, when the fame of those

our noble dead will be the common pride, the common glory, of the American people.

General GIBSON was as admirable in private life as he was distinguished as a soldier and a statesmen. It was not my good fortune to personally know the lovely and accomplished woman who devoted her life to him; but I am justified in saying that a devoted wife found in him a loyal and devoted husband. As a friend he was most thoughtful and considerate, shedding the light of a benevolent and kindly heart upon all to whom he bore that relation.

Reverently and tenderly he has been laid to rest with the kinsmen and friends of his boyhood; a brave and loyal soldier, a faithful representative of the people, a devoted husband and father, a benevolent and self-sacrificing friend and Christian gentleman has gone to his rest.

Peace to his ashes.

ADDRESS OF MR. WHEELER, OF ALABAMA.

Mr. SPEAKER: The resolutions which are before the House bring up memories of many years ago. They recall to my mind when a third of a century ago I first met Senator RANDALL LEE GIBSON, and it has been my privilege and pleasure to be intimately associated with this chivalrous gentleman for a greater part of the time up to the date of his death. I knew Senator GIBSON as a soldier, brave, chivalrous, and undaunted. I knew him in the deadly carnage, always leading in the front of battle, always courting the post of greatest danger. I knew him in the camp, earnest and devoted in administering to the wants of his men and performing the tedious routine of duty. I knew him on the march, always sharing with his devoted soldiers labor, fatigue, suffering, and privation. I knew him when the war was over and the flag of the Confederacy was

trailed in the dust, broken in fortune, but unconquered in spirit. I knew him as a gentleman, gentle, courteous, urbane, and loved and respected by everyone, his bearing marked with dignity and firmness and yet the perfection of simplicity and unobtrusive modesty, a striking exemplification of the highest type of manhood. I knew him as a husband and father, enjoying the pleasures of a happy family home filled with reciprocal feelings of love and devotion. I knew him twenty-two years ago, when, after a terrific struggle, he was elected a member of this body and commenced his career as a statesman in an arena to which he brought great natural gifts, cultured by diligent study, profound thought, and extensive travel. I knew him in the strength and vigor of powerful manhood, the idol of his State, a leader among men, an honored, esteemed Senator of this great country. I knew him when the outstretched hand of death beckoned him to the shadow under which we all must pass.

In all these varied conditions and relations of life Senator GIBSON shone forth and seemed to illumine any sphere in which he moved. Whether in prosperity or adversity, whether enjoying bounteous affluence or undergoing financial reverses which the ravages of war brought upon him, whether as a private citizen or occupying the high positions of general and Senator, he was the same dignified, modest, and affable gentleman.

Senator GIBSON was descended from a long line of distinguished ancestors, and the gentle courtesy which characterized him was his by inheritance as well as education. He was a native of Kentucky, his father having married in early life Miss Louisiana Hart, of Lexington, and here in the home of chivalry and culture his youthful mind expanded. While he was still very young his parents removed to Louisiana, and from that time he became identified with the interests of his

adopted home. His early education was acquired in Terre Bonne and Lexington, and his collegiate course at Yale was supplemented by several years of foreign travel.

Returning home, he studied law at the University of Louisiana, but he did not at once enter upon the arduous details of the profession, preferring the life of a planter; but the stirring times preceding the outbreak of war forced him from his retirement and drew forth all the noblest qualities of his gifted nature. At the beginning of the war he raised a company, and was soon made colonel of a regiment. Although untrained in military affairs, his great natural qualities made him conspicuous in his career, as he would have been in any other position.

His regiment, the Thirteenth Louisiana, gained immortal renown for courage and heroism from the time it first met the shock of battle on the field of Shiloh.

The date first fixed for these ceremonies was just thirty-two years after the close of the terrible struggle, where General GIBSON, worn and weary, begrimed with powder and smoke, was triumphantly completing the second day of the great battle on the banks of the beautiful Tennessee. Only the preceding morning he had received his baptism of blood, and in forty-eight hours had earned the reputation of a brave, intrepid, and skillful brigade commander. In the many battles in which that army afterwards engaged we find General GIBSON always brave and conspicuous, and frequently mentioned in the reports of the commanders.

In his report of the battle of Perryville, General Adams speaks of the gallant service and military skill of Senator GIBSON, and mentions a separate communication in which he recommends him for promotion to the rank of brigadier-general for the distinguished skill and valor which he displayed in that hotly contested battle.

I read from the War Records, volume 16, page 1124:

The praises bestowed in my report for gallant service on the field fell under my immediate observation in the cases of Colonel R. L. GIBSON, Major Austin, and Captain Tracy.

General Adams also says:

The report of the others named was derived from the regimental reports. The regimental commanders named deserve credit for the manner in which they moved and kept their commands together. The Thirteenth Louisiana, Colonel GIBSON, deserve special mention for the promptness with which they moved forward, the alacrity and rapidity with which they pressed the enemy until halted by my command. I will recommend Colonel GIBSON, for skill and valor, to be brigadier-general, in a separate communication.

The next great battle of that army was Murfreesboro, and here again we find General GIBSON very distinguished. The eminent Major-General John C. Breckinridge speaks of Colonel GIBSON'S marked courage and skill throughout the battle, and General Adams speaks of his conduct in a charge as deserving the highest praise, and states that no greater courage and determination could have been displayed. General Adams also speaks in high commendation of the tenacity with which General GIBSON held a fiercely assailed position. I read from General Breckinridge's report, War Records, volume 20, page 783:

General Adams having received a wound while gallantly leading his brigade, the command devolved upon Colonel R. L. GIBSON, who discharged its duties throughout with marked courage and skill.

On page 793 of the same volume, General Adams gives an account of the charge in which General GIBSON was distinguished in these words:

The conduct of the officers and men in making the charge and holding the position as long as they did deserves the highest praise. No greater courage or determination could have been displayed.

General GIBSON also did excellent and gallant service in the various engagements during the summer of 1863; and for his

eminent service at the battle of Chickamauga he was highly commended by Major-General Breckinridge, who stated in his report that the country was indebted to him for the courage and skill with which he discharged his duties in that great conflict. I read from General Breckinridge's report, which I find in the War Records, volume 30, page 201:

> To Brigadier-General Stovall, to Colonel Lewis, who succeeded to the command of Helms' brigade, and to Colonel R. L. GIBSON, who succeeded to the command of Adams' brigade, the country is indebted for the courage and skill with which they discharged their arduous duties.

All through the history of the Atlanta campaign we find General GIBSON repeatedly mentioned and highly commended; in the War Records, volume 38, page 767, by Lieutenant-General Stephen D. Lee; on page 812 of the same volume, by Major-General C. L. Stevenson; on page 816, the same volume, by General A. P. Stewart; on page 823, by General M. A. Stovall, and on page 846, by General Alpheus Baker.

In the battle of May 25 General GIBSON'S brigade bore a very conspicuous part. Major-General H. D. Clayton, in his official report, volume 38, page 833, says:

> Three lines of battle of the enemy came forward successively, and in turn were successively repulsed. Men could not have fought better or exhibited more cool and resolute courage. Not a man except the wounded left his position. The engagement lasted uninterruptedly until night, or more than two hours, and when the enemy finally withdrew many of my men had their last cartridge in their guns.

In the many battles directly in front of Atlanta, and in the sanguinary battle of Jonesboro, General GIBSON was repeatedly distinguished. In his official report of the great battle of August 31, Major-General Clayton speaks of General GIBSON'S heroic conduct in seizing the colors of one of his regiments and leading a charge on the works of the Federal Army, conduct which General Clayton says created the greatest

enthusiasm throughout the command. I read from General Clayton's official report, War Records, volume 38, page 822:

Brigadier-General GIBSON, seizing the colors of one of his regiments, dashed to the front and up to the very works of the enemy. This conduct created the greatest enthusiasm throughout his command, which again, as in the engagement of the 28th of July, previously mentioned, moved against a salient in the enemy's works.

Unfortunately a large portion of the whole command stopped in the rifle pits of the enemy, behind piles of rails and a fence running nearly parallel to his breastworks, and to this circumstance I attribute the failure to carry the works. Never was a charge begun with such enthusiasm terminated with accomplishing so little. This gallant brigade lost one-half its numbers.

His corps commander, General Stephen D. Lee, speaks in the highest terms of General GIBSON'S brigade in the Tennessee campaign in the fall of 1864. He says:

I saw them around Atlanta and in Hood's Nashville campaign. I designated GIBSON'S brigade to cross the Tennessee River in open boats in the presence of the enemy, near Florence, Ala., and a more gallant crossing of any river was not made during the war.

At the desperate and bloody battle of Franklin, General GIBSON won the highest encomiums from General Hood. This distinguished officer stated that General GIBSON evinced conspicuous gallantry and ability in the handling of his troops. I read the exact language of General Hood:

General GIBSON, who evinced conspicuous gallantry and ability in the handling of his troops, succeeded, in concert with Clayton, in checking and staying the most dangerous shock, which always follows immediately after a rout, GIBSON'S brigade and McKinzie's battery of Fenner's battalion acting as rear guard of the rear guard.

In the conflict around Nashville General GIBSON added to his already high reputation. His corps commander, General Lee, speaks of the gallant conduct of GIBSON'S soldiers in that great struggle and of General GIBSON'S superb conduct

in checking two formidable assaults of the Federal Army. General Lee says:

At Nashville, when Hood was defeated by Thomas, GIBSON'S brigade was conspicuously posted on the left of the pike near Over'on Hill, and I witnessed their driving back, with the rest of Clayton's division, two formidable assaults of the enemy.

I recollect, near dark, riding up to the brigade, near a battery, and trying to seize a stand of colors and lead the brigade against the enemy. The color-bearer refused to give up his colors and was sustained by his regiment. I found it was the color-bearer of the Thirteenth Louisiana. It was GIBSON'S Louisiana brigade. GIBSON soon appeared at my side, and in admiration of such conduct I exclaimed: "GIBSON, these are the best men I ever saw; you take them and check the enemy." GIBSON did take them and did check the enemy.

It is not singular that an officer who in many battles had met the highest expectations of his commanders and of the troops he so gallantly led should be selected for the independent command of the troops at Spanish Fort, one of the important defenses of Mobile. In this position General GIBSON displayed the eminent qualities which had made him distinguished throughout the war.

General Taylor speaks of the defense of Spanish Fort and the retreat conducted by General GIBSON as one of the best achievements of the war. I read from his Construction and Reconstruction, published in 1877, page 221:

General R. L. GIBSON, now a member of Congress from Louisiana, held Spanish Fort with 2,500 men. Fighting all day and working all night, GIBSON successfully resisted the efforts of the immense force against him until the evening of April 8, when the enemy effected a lodgment threatening his only route of evacuation. Under instructions from Maury he withdrew his garrison in the night to Mobile, excepting his pickets, necessarily left. GIBSON'S stubborn defense and skillful retreat make this one of the best achievements of the war.

In a work on the campaign in Mobile by General Andrews, published in 1866, General GIBSON, the commander of Spanish

Fort, is spoken of by this Federal officer in the highest terms as a competent and active officer and one who inspired his troops with enthusiasm. On page 165 he says:

> The besiegers and garrison alike are entitled to praise for constant industry and for energy.
>
> The garrison commander, General GIBSON, was competent and active and inspired his troops with enthusiasm. He was highly complimented by his superior officers for his conduct during the siege.

I know I may be pardoned for dwelling, as I have, on the military career of General GIBSON. His colleagues in the Senate and House knew of his eminent services while a member of this House and also during his career as a Senator; but, although all knew he was a distinguished general, very few of his friends were so informed of his military service as to have a full appreciation of its extent and character.

At the close of the war, returning to a blighted and desolate home, his hopes in the dust, his fortunes broken, he took up the practice of law and soon began to earn fame and fortune in his new vocation.

The breadth of his mind and the strength of his will, combined with the singular fascination which he exercised on those who surrounded him, soon placed him in a prominent rank of the profession.

He was elected to the Forty-third Congress, but was deprived of his seat. He was again elected and admitted to the Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth, and Forty-seventh Congresses, and while still serving in the latter, and having yet a term to serve in the Forty-eighth, he was elected to the Senate in 1882, and reelected at the end of that term.

Senator GIBSON'S services to his State have endeared him to every citizen of Louisiana. In the darkest hour of the reconstruction period it was well for his people that this brave, good man stood at the helm and piloted the craft into safe and

quiet waters. It was by his strong and unswerving influence that the Administration was persuaded to adopt the policy which finally enabled Louisiana to arise from the shackles which had well nigh crushed her to destruction. For his efforts in this direction, for his able advocacy of the Eads system of opening the Mississippi, and for his cooperation with Mr. Tulane in the location of the great university at New Orleans, he merited the undying gratitude of the people whose beloved representative he was.

For a long time Senator GIBSON suffered from the malady which finally resulted fatally, and several years before his death his happy home was broken up by the loss of his beloved wife, who preceded him to the tomb.

His remains were taken back to the home of his childhood and deposited in the beautiful cemetery at Lexington, where repose the ashes of so many noble and distinguished sons of the great State of Kentucky. Here, surrounded by old war-worn comrades and escorted by a company of cadets from the Military University of Kentucky, he was laid to rest, amid the tears and blessings of the old and the young, in the bosom of his native and well-beloved home.

In looking upon the mound which covers the mortal remains of Senator GIBSON we involuntarily recall the solemn words of Mrs. Browning:

> Never, sister, never, was told by mortal breath,
> What they behold
> O'er whom hath rolled
> The one dark wave of death.

And yet while it is an infinite decree of divine wisdom that we should have no tidings from beyond the tomb, yet there is within us an ever-living spirit which whispers of a future life wherein is to be found the fullness and completion of the always-present yearnings and aspirations of our souls.

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It is a consolation to Senator GIBSON'S family and friends to know that he felt these yearnings and aspirations in all their force, and that he had full trust and confidence in all that Christians believe of the life to come.

ADDRESS OF MR. BRECKINRIDGE, OF ARKANSAS.

It is not my purpose, Mr. Speaker, to make a formal address in memory of my deceased friend, the late Senator from Louisiana. When I considered the relations which for many years I had maintained with him and the ties that bound his family and mine together, it was with more than ordinary pleasure that I consented to say a word when called upon to do so by one of the delegation from his State. The details of his career have been related fully and admirably by those who have undertaken that part of these appropriate ceremonies. General GIBSON was a man whose character and career will yield greater fruit and receive greater admiration as they are continuously and closely studied.

In the course of a life not very prolonged he was called to discharge varied and high duties, and to all of them he proved fully equal. He was a man of such various gifts, of such learning, of such broad and perfect culture, that he would have been successful in any calling to which he had chosen to devote his attention. It is not surprising, therefore, that, although not trained to the profession of arms, he should have received the highest praise from those with whom he served as well as from those to whom he was opposed. With his courage and sagacity it was not a lengthy task for him to master the main elements of the military art.

As a lawyer he was successful, but his equipment was such that he was most needed by his people to serve them in a public capacity, under the complicated conditions which surrounded

them at the close of the civil war. After all that has been said of his success, after all that has been said of his achievements, I think I can truly say that his public career never fully taxed his greatest powers. Of all the men in public life with whom I have been associated there was not one possessed of more fascinating manners, there was not one a more accomplished gentleman, there was not one who was a more sagacious and astute man than RANDALL L. GIBSON.

Whatever were his successes—as a student at Yale College, as a lawyer, as a gentleman adorning the most cultivated society in Europe and in this country, as a member of this House, as a soldier, and as a Senator—I have always believed that General GIBSON, never had an opportunity of publicly entering upon that field of labor which was best suited to his talents. That is the field of diplomacy. He would have made a great Secretary of State. No man of his day was better fitted to represent his country in its foreign relations. He was pre-eminently a wise man in council. He was thoroughly familiar with all the springs and impulses of the human heart. Energetic in action, he was yet a man of reflection, serene, comprehensive, and far-reaching judgment. Of his military career—and few men did more hard fighting than he—the defense of Mobile will be considered his ablest and best achievement.

The greater the task to which he had to address himself the greater, apparently, was the ease with which his mind operated. I never knew a man who moved with greater ease than he did in all the higher elements of political philosophy and practice. Broad and comprehensive, he seemed to omit no detail, and yet to grasp in all their bearings the farthest outlines of the greatest public questions and the profoundest principles of public policy.

Sir, I shall not continue these remarks at length. There were just one or two points that I desire to speak of that had especially impressed themselves upon me in my long and close

relations with Senator GIBSON. Our families have maintained an intimate relationship for several generations. There was kinship between us, and during the war he served under the command of my father, who extended to him the same affectionate greeting that General GIBSON extended to me when I met him upon my entrance into public life here.

No man contributed more to the pacification of this country than did Senator GIBSON, and his usefulness in public life, with all his rich and varied endowments, was so much dependent upon the blessings of his home life that remarks upon his career would be incomplete if they did not embrace within their scope the charming helpmate who graced his board and who aided him in all the work and relations of his life. He did not marry until some time after the war.

I remember being in the city of New York soon after the war and there meeting his wife, then a school girl, recently returned from France, and I thought that my eyes had never fallen upon a fairer or more beautiful vision. She was beautiful in person, pure and elevated in character, with rare good sense and perfect taste. They were thoroughly congenial, and she rendered him inestimable service in the exceedingly difficult undertaking that he, one of the representatives of a proscribed section, had to perform in seeking to knit anew the social ties, public confidence, and personal relations that had been severed by civil war.

Those labors, by reason of his happy alliance, by reason of his wide associations formed at Yale, and his fidelity to all the friendships of his youth, as well as by reason of his own matchless gifts and attainments, he was able to bring to a successful conclusion. Among all my friends and associates there is none of whom I could with more sincerity speak words of admiration and love than of Senator GIBSON, to whose memory on this occasion we seek to do reverence and honor.

ADDRESS OF MR. BLAIR, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. GIBSON was a member of the Forty-fourth Congress, where I first knew him as one of the prominent men whose superior abilities signalized the advent of the leaders of the Confederacy to the leadership of the restored Union. That Congress witnessed in this Chamber some of the greatest intellectual and forensic contentions in the annals of time.

The passions of the war had not then subsided. The irritations of the period of reconstruction had sharpened the animosities which fringed the sublimer emotions of the great anterior struggle. More than ten years of quasi peace had not assuaged them, and it is probable that the North and the South met here in December, 1875, in a mood for more acrimonious debate than in December, 1861.

Everything which led to the war and which had occurred during its prosecution, and subsequent to Appomattox, was fresh in all minds and ready to leap in fiery phrase of accusation or defense from every tongue. Besides the past, there was a present and an immediate future to be fashioned and molded, upon which depended the domination of the industrial and social policies whose collision rendered the era now rapidly disappearing from the scene one of the bloodiest and most distinctive in history.

Everywhere it was recognized that gradually but surely the South, although vanquished on the battlefield, was recovering from her wounds and rising from her ashes with her system of labor legally shattered, yet really stronger and more efficient than ever.

The old-time bond between the Democratic party in the two sections had not been severely strained even in actual war.

True, the inherent patriotism of the masses of the Northern people had filled the armies of the Union with volunteers, who, regardless of party, died with equal devotion to the flag; but the ideas and policies of the antebellum Democracy survived the war, as they survive it still, and there was a natural restoration of unity in action in that great party as soon as the shock of battle ceased.

The reconstruction of the Democracy was complete at the surrender, for its unity of spirit—never disturbed during the war—was at once a manifestly perfect bond with the return of peace. On the other hand, the ideas and issues represented by the Republican party had no lodgment in the South, except in the hearts of vast but unintelligent masses of another and helpless race, so that the solid white population of that great section, reenforcing the Northern Democracy, had rendered the approaching Presidential struggle of 1876 one of very doubtful result.

Both great parties looked upon it as a political Gettysburg, and many feared that it might be succeeded by lawless bloodshed, if not by another outbreak of actual war. Under these circumstances, upon which the proprieties of the occasion will not permit me to dwell in further detail, it was unavoidable that the great men of the country, who in larger numbers never were present in any Congress since the foundation of the Government, should put forth their utmost powers, stirred and stimulated by the strongest passions, as well as the most elevated motives, emotions, and convictions belonging to human nature.

Of the great actors in that drama who still survive I say nothing, because it is unfitting to transfer them to the realms of deification while we are still blessed with their bodily presence. But there were Blaine and Garfield on the one side. On the other were Hill and Lamar. Many more immortal

names in the great galaxy of the departed might here be mentioned; and it is but a just tribute to the memory of the brilliant, polished, able, and beloved RANDALL GIBSON to say that he stood up among those marvelous men as gallant and courtly and chivalrous and honorable and patriotic and profoundly respected a gentleman as any one of them all.

I knew him thenceforward until he died, never intimately, but I believe I always knew him well.

For some four years we sat side by side in the Senate.

During all that time I was conscious that a superior being was near; that a spirit sweet and affectionate and sensitive and pure, with lofty aspirations, with benevolent and far-reaching purposes for the improvement and blessing of others, looked forth from those steadfast and penetrating eyes, and vitalized with noble impulses the eloquent periods with which he charmed, instructed, and convinced the Senate.

His efforts were rightly, first, for the people of his then devastated and distracted State; but the heart of General GIBSON was as large as the whole country, and was full of justice and love for us all. He was one of those to whom a Northern man would turn with confidence if he were specially solicitous that the destinies of the land should fall into the possession of those of our Southern countrymen who would administer the Constitution and laws for all sections, in the true national spirit, and for the greatest good of the greatest number, tempered with the limitation that never shall the inalienable right of the humblest and weakest be sacrificed for the benefit of greed and power.

He knew that true reconstruction of the Union and the permanent existence of freedom and happiness depend upon universal intelligence and virtue among the people.

He was identified with the cause of education in his own State, as the chief promoter of the great Tulane Institution,

that great intellectual light-house which burns as a pillar of fire for the perpetual illumination of the surpassing valley of the American Nile.

He was profoundly devoted to the passage of the national education bill, which for many years was the hope of the common people of the South, and which, had it not died, as Christ died, by the betrayal of those who pretended to be its friends, would before now have reconstructed the country upon relations of equality and justice to all, and made peace and union and prosperity forever secure, by establishing homogeneous conditions everywhere, giving to each child of the Republic, white and black, a common school education and a fair start and equal chance in the race of life.

Urging the passage of this great measure, Mr. GIBSON said on the floor of the Senate:

"In my opinion, reflecting men in all parts of the country * * * have formed the deliberate judgment that the education of the people, the enlightenment of the suffrage, the elevation of the popular character and the popular conscience, the awakening of a loftier and healthier sentiment of national patriotism, is absolutely indispensable to the preservation of constitutional liberty."

Noble words of a patriot, a philanthropist, and a sage! They shall immortalize thy name when empires have fallen and realms have decayed!

Closely associated in their advocacy of the education bill, his great compeer from the same region of the South, the gifted and lamented Lamar, exclaimed:

I have watched it with deep interest and intense solicitude. In my opinion, it is the first step and the most important step this Government has ever taken in the direction of the solution of what is known as the race problem, and I believe it will tell more powerfully and decisively upon the future destinies of the colored race than any measure or ordinance

that has yet been adopted in reference to it—more decisively than either the thirteenth, fourteenth, or fifteenth amendments, unless it is to be considered, as I do consider it, the logical sequence and the practical continuance of those amendments.

I think that this measure is fraught with almost unspeakable benefits to the entire population of the South, white and black. It will excite a new interest among our people; it will stimulate both State and local communities to more energetic exertions and greater sacrifices, because it will encourage them in their hopes in grappling and struggling with a task before whose vast proportions they have stood appalled in the consciousness of the inadequacy of their own resources to meet it.

Lamar was one of the great men of his generation. He will live in our history as a statesman, an orator, a jurist, a discriminating and philosophic student of mankind. But he never manifested a more powerful comprehension of the great problem of our time than is expressed in these vital and eloquent words.

Men of the South! the failure of the educational bill was your great calamity. Under its operation ten years would have accomplished the slow and doubtful work of a century left to be wrought by existing agencies. Is there no resurrection, and is death an eternal sleep? This is the great question for the young and rising South. You have the power in your own hands, and you, not I, nor man or men of other sections, are mainly responsible for the future now.

Randall Lee Gibson is with us no more.

Born in the South; educated in the North; combining the best qualities of both sections, and comparatively free from the influence of the weaker and lower elements of human nature, he lived an active and upright life; performed an important part upon a conspicuous stage; in war he was a knight without fear and without reproach; in peace a useful and honored citizen, discharging public duties with integrity, zeal, and ability, and always one of God's true gentlemen.

He is embalmed in the honor and love of his countrymen!

Rest, spirit, rest! Soar, spirit, soar!

Louisiana will enshrine his memory with fadeless and perpetual flowers; the incense of her gratitude will ascend until the last drop of the Mississippi has rolled by his grave on its way to the sea; and it is well that he sleep among those who knew him best, and therefore loved him most, until the resurrection. But I do know of eyes among the far hills of the North that will weep for him, and of one heart that will beat more quickly at the sound of his name until itself shall throb no more.

Address of Mr. Hooker, of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker: The very able and exhaustive address which has been delivered on the life and character of my friend, General Randall Lee Gibson, by his colleague from the city of New Orleans, General Meyer, makes it almost unnecessary, I think, to say anything in the line in which he spoke, for he has portrayed in truthful colors the life and character of the great representative from Louisiana on this floor and on the floor of the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, in 1875, at the beginning of the Forty-fourth Congress, there appeared in this Hall one of the most marked men who has occupied a seat in the House of Representatives since the close of the war between the States. He was of the marked Anglo-Saxon type of men; blue eyes, radiant with expression; light hair, features perfectly chiseled, with a smile that won all hearts, and yet an expression about the mouth in moments of earnestness which showed of what metal he was made. Tall of form, slender in proportions, with a scrupulous neatness in apparel which challenged the eye of the critic, with

a dignified, courteous, and gracious bearing, he drew to him all eyes and won the admiration of his colleagues in this Hall. That man was RANDALL LEE GIBSON, a Representative from the State of Louisiana.

For what I am about to say in reference to his birth, lineage, and his military career, and the services which he rendered as a legislator in this Hall, and the other branch of Congress, I am largely indebted to the pen of his kinsman, that gallant statesman, American soldier, and American gentleman, the Hon. Preston Johnston, of the State of Louisiana, who was his lifetime friend; himself the son of the great Albert Sidney Johnston, so memorable for his services in the Confederate war.

I well remember the occasion which I now refer to. When he was suffering from one of those hereditary attacks to which my friend General MEYER has referred, it became his duty, by invitation of the citizens of the State of Louisiana, to make an address at the unveiling of the equestrian statue of Albert Sidney Johnston. I chanced to be present by invitation on that occasion, as I had been honored by the citizens of Louisiana in making the address when the corner stone of that equestrian statue of Albert Sidney Johnston was laid. General GIBSON, on that occasion, rose from a bed of sickness, and when he ascended the platform to address the vast multitude that had come to do honor to the memory of the great soldier he went upon that platform on his crutches, suffering intense physical pain, and supported himself on those crutches during the discourse.

He delivered an address that thrilled every heart, and awoke the admiration of all the confederates of the dead general whom they had come to honor, the soldiers in blue vieing with those in gray who should strew the first flowers. And I hope the same gifted pen which has portrayed his character, life, and services as a Confederate general may yet be used, in the midst

even of the busy and useful life of Colonel Preston Johnston, to give not only to the State of Louisiana, but to the country and to humanity, a history of RANDALL LEE GIBSON, a biography of him, which no man can write as Colonel Preston Johnston could write it. It is to him I am indebted for knowledge of his origin, family history, and his military services.

General GIBSON was born at Spring Hill, Woodford County, Ky., September 10, 1832. His ancestors were the fighting Whigs of the Revolutionary war. John Gibson, the progenitor of the Gibson family in America, emigrated from England in 1706, accompanied by several brothers, and settled in Middlesex County, Va. They afterward removed to South Carolina and settled on the Great Peedee River with their kinsmen, the Murfees, Saunders, Harrisons, and Pegues.

They all took active part in the Revolutionary war, and at its close the grandfather of General GIBSON, Randall Gibson, settled in Mississippi, at Oakley, in Warren County. His descendants and connections embrace some of the best known families in the southwest—the Harrisons, Nailors, Stewarts, Gillespies, Barneses, Humphreys, Booths, Marshalls, Higginses, Brands, and others, all men of influence and mark in the day and time in which they lived. Randall Gibson, the grandfather of General GIBSON, built the first church and founded the first institution of learning (Jefferson College, 8 miles back of Natchez) in the Mississippi Valley.

Randall Gibson's son, Tobias Gibson, the father of our deceased friend, General GIBSON, settled in Terre Bonne Parish, La. He was a man of rank and influence in his day; the close personal and political friend of Henry Clay, whom he often entertained at his princely summer residence, near Lexington, Ky.

Tobias Gibson was a gentleman of the old school, proud, courtly, and fastidious, but hospitable and kind.

Through his mother's family, the Harts, General GIBSON was connected with some of the most noted families of Kentucky—the Clays, the Bentons, the Prestons, the Marshalls, and others of equal distinction.

General GIBSON was the eldest son of Tobias Gibson, and his schoolboy days were spent in Kentucky, where he has a host of friends, who will cherish his name and memory with a love as tender and an admiration as sincere as that of the friends of his own State of Louisiana, which he represented on this floor. In 1849 General GIBSON entered Yale College. He took high rank in his classes, being selected orator by his society, and shared the honors of the class of 1853 with E. C. Stedman, the poet, and A. D. White, the educator.

General GIBSON studied law in New Orleans, and was graduated at the university in 1855. He went abroad and spent three years in Europe, studying in Berlin, visiting Russia, and being for six months attached to the American legation at Madrid, when we were represented at that court by General A. C. Dodge, a high type of an American gentleman.

Returning from his educational trip abroad, shortly before the breaking out of the war between the States, General GIBSON pursued the practice of law until that event occurred.

When the war began General GIBSON enlisted as a private, and was appointed captain of artillery, and stationed at Fort Jackson, below New Orleans. Soon after he was elected colonel of the Thirteenth Louisiana Infantry.

His first great battle was at Shiloh. Four regiments were brigaded together and General GIBSON was selected by his brother officers to command the brigade, which played a gallant and conspicuous part in the great battle. His brigade was

four times repulsed with great slaughter at the "Hornet's Nest," but it was in the front line at sunset, and was distinguished in the fighting next day under Gen. Polk, which Gen. Sherman pronounced the heaviest fire during the war.

General GIBSON was with Bragg's army in the Kentucky campaign, and was recommended by his superior officers for promotion for "skill and gallantry" at Perryville, Murfreesboro, and Chickamauga. He lost one-third of his brigade killed and wounded at Murfreesboro; out of 28 officers of the Thirteenth Louisiana, he lost 19, and 332 men killed and wounded.

His service was long and continuous in all the Western campaigns, and received the cordial commendation of his superior officers, including such illustrious names as Polk, Hardee, John C. Breckinridge, Cheatham, Dan Adams, Maury, Preston, Stephen Lee, Richard Taylor, J. E. Johnston, and Hood. Gen John C. Breckinridge said of him at the battle of Murfreesboro:

He discharged his duties with marked courage and skill.

General H. D. Clayton, in his report of the battle of Jonesboro, Ga., 31st of August, 1864, says:

Brigadier-General GIBSON, seizing the colors of one of his regiments, dashed to the front and to the very works of the enemy. His conduct created the greatest enthusiasm throughout the command. This gallant brigade lost half its numbers.

Clayton adds:

My own eyes bore witness to its splendid conduct from the beginning to the close. It captured the guns of the enemy and occupied their main works until overwhelming and increasing numbers forced their abandonment. It was handled with skill, and fought with the heroism of desperation.

General Stephen D. Lee, speaking of GIBSON's brigade, says: "I saw them around Atlanta and in Hood's Nashville campaign, and I know that, in consultation with Major-General Clayton, I designated GIBSON's bri-

gade to cross the Tennessee River, in open boats, in the presence of the enemy, opposite Florence, Ala., and a more gallant crossing of any river was not made during the war. The enemy was supposed to be in large force, covered by the banks, but GIBSON and his men never inquired as to numbers when they were ordered forward, and their gallant bearing soon put the enemy's sharpshooters to flight and secured a good crossing for two divisions of my corps. At Nashville, when Hood was defeated by Thomas, GIBSON'S brigade of my corps was conspicuously posted on the left of the pike near Overton Hill, and I witnessed their driving back, with the rest of Clayton's division, two formidable assaults of the enemy. * * * I recollect, near dark, riding up to a brigade near a battery and trying to seize a stand of colors and lead the brigade against the enemy. The color bearer refused to give up his colors, and was sustained by his regiment. I found it was the color-bearer of the Thirteenth Louisiana, and it was GIBSON'S Louisiana brigade. GIBSON soon appeared by my side, and in my admiration of such conduct, I exclaimed, 'GIBSON, those are the best men I ever saw; you take them and check the enemy.' GIBSON did lead them and did check the enemy."

In General Canby's campaign against Mobile, General GIBSON was detached from the main army and, with a force of 3,500 men, held the enemy in check for over two weeks. The fighting was fast and furious from beginning to end. General C. C. Andrews, the Federal historian of the campaign, says: "The garrison made at least a dozen sorties, several of which were successful." At last, when General Canby broke through his defenses, GIBSON prolonged the fight until night and then withdrew the garrison under cover of darkness along a narrow treadway, only 18 inches wide, through the marsh. General Andrews, in his history, says:

> The garrison commander, General GIBSON, was competent and active, and inspired his troops with enthusiasm. He was highly complimented by his superior officers for his conduct during the siege.
>
> General Richard Taylor, commanding the department, was so pleased with GIBSON'S conduct at Spanish Fort that he enlarged his command. But the war was at an end, surrender came and he was now appointed by Taylor the commissioner to meet the Federal officers to parole the army.

In his farewell address to his troops GIBSON says: "Your banners are garlanded with the emblems of every soldiery virtue; more than twenty battlefields have seen them unfurled; they were never lowered save over the bier of a comrade. * * * Comrades! henceforth other duties will devolve upon you. Adversities can only strengthen the ties that bind you to your country and increase the obligations you owe to her interests and her honor. As soldiers you have been among the bravest and most steadfast; as citizens be lawabiding, peaceable, and industrious."

Thus ended, with the close of the war, one of the most brilliant military records made by any general of the Confederate army.

In 1872 his fellow-citizens in Louisiana selected him as a man possessing rare judgment and great coolness and high and patriotic conservatism to represent them in this House.

He was not permitted to take his seat.

In 1874 he was again elected to a seat in this House; and it was here I first met General GIBSON, and it was not long before I learned to love him for those sterling traits of character which he displayed and for that uniform courtesy and kindness it was ever his delight to extend to his colleagues and comrades.

General GIBSON was reelected as a Representative to this House in 1874, and again in 1876, 1878, and 1880; and in all his service in this House I had the honor to serve with him.

General GIBSON, with the able colleagues who served with him from Louisiana, addressed themselves primarily to obtain the removal of the military forces of the United States from their State, and after long delay and much vexation this was accomplished, and Louisiana was once more restored to her civil rights in the Union.

One of the subjects to which General GIBSON at an early day in his Congressional service addressed himself was the improvement of the Mississippi River. Indeed, he may be justly said to be the father of the Mississippi River Commission, which

was and still is composed of the best engineers from the Army of the United States and from civil life. The fruits of the labor and skill of this Commission are now being enjoyed by the people of the Mississippi Valley in comparative exemption from the disastrous floods which formerly devastated this the most fertile valley of the world. In recognition of his legislative services in these and other measures of equal importance, in which he displayed powers of reason and research and eloquence not surpassed by any man who served at that time in Congress, the people who knew him best and prized him most, his beloved citizens of Louisiana, elected him to the United States Senate. He took his seat in March, 1883.

His native ability, his splendid education, his long service of eight years in the House fully equipped him for entrance into that august body.

He sprang into the arena of high debate, armed cap-a-pie for the conflict.

His comrades and peers in the Senate learned to love this splendid and pure man, as we did in the House, and it is fit and proper that I should leave his Senatorial career to be spoken of in suitable terms by his friends and colleagues in that body.

He was a man of the highest character. No duty in life was neglected, and no obligation but that was faithfully met.

As a man in all the relations of life, as a citizen, as a soldier, as a representative, he had few peers and no superiors.

There was not a blemish, not a spot, on what seemed to me to be a perfect character.

He died in the fullness of his useful manhood and honored life, leaving to his descendants and kindred and friends a name beloved by those tied to him by the ties of kindred and connection and friends, and honored of all men who know his life and services to his country.

I have thus, Mr. Speaker, endeavored to portray in a few

remarks the history and career of our distinguished friend, to whom we meet here to-day to pay the last sad honor. It is natural that we should refer to the services which he rendered to the Confederate soldiers, though when he came into this Hall and the Senate Chamber he manifested a conservatism of disposition which won for him not only the hearts and affections of men of his own party but of all. It is natural that we should erect monuments to those who have served us with the distinction which such men as GIBSON did. The soldiers of the Union armies have erected upon the battlefields monuments declaring the valor and heroism, the courage and patriotism of the men who led the Union armies.

That same spirit and temper which prompt them to honor their dead lead them to say, sir, that it is but proper that those who belonged to what is called "The lost cause," and who wore the Confederate gray during the war would be equally unfaithful to their duty if they did not on appropriate occasions erect monuments and pay tribute to their dead. They would write over our graves not alone the word "rebel," as was done at one time in Arlington, but which I am glad to say now has been removed—they would not write the word "rebel" over the graves of Confederates, for that is a term which George Washington wore and Robert E. Lee honored; and it is naught therefore but proper that the use of this term with reference to distinguished Confederates should be in the same spirit in which it distinguished the love of liberty in our Revolutionary war and all others. They would scratch out the word "rebel" if we should forget their services, and properly write there "Ingrate! Ingrate! Ingrate!" could we forget the perils encountered, the hardships endured, the blood shed for us by the men who wore the ragged gray jacket of the Confederacy.

No, sirs; while faithful memory lasts its magic wand will wave over the chill vaults of the sepulcher—the dead nation's sepulcher—her hundred battlefields; and the dead will start again into life, pale, pallid, passionless as the seraphs. Indeed, and in truth, in the arms of our fancy, may we again embrace those dear departed comrades who, while they lived, lived for us and for their country, and when they perished poured out their rich young life's blood on that country's altar; and as their pale lips froze in death on many a distant battlefield their last syllabled utterances perchance murmured our names.

No, Mr. Speaker; we could not forget them if we would, and we would not if we could.

Of all this vast throng of the dead, lying in their unmarked graves under the green sod, where in the springtime we strew the flowers of faithful memory, no braver soldier or purer spirit or truer man lies than our honored, loved, and cherished comrade, RANDALL LEE GIBSON.

THE SPEAKER. In pursuance of the resolution which has been adopted the House stands adjourned until Monday next.